

**Annual Report 2003**

**The International Writing Program  
at  
The University of Iowa**

In the days before Stefon Harris and his quartet were to perform at Hancher Auditorium, a one-of-a-kind workshop was taking place in the Voxman Music Building. The ear and improvisational range of these top-flight jazz musicians were being tested by nine international poets. Lithuanian, Setswana, Mongolian, Korean, Polish, Vietnamese, German, Romanian: one by one the poets' mother tongues created landscapes, while Stefon Harris and his quartet tinkered with combinations of sounds until they had the atmosphere and timing down, their musical vocabulary expanding at times to meet the need. Word of the performance got out. The Wheelroom at the IMU was standing room only, and what the audience heard that Friday night was a glorious, uninterrupted hour of jazz, with Stefon Harris alternating between two vibraphones, and the musicians and the poets slipping and jumping from one landscape and language to the next.

Flash forward a month, to October. A shortage of bona fide playwrights in this year's residency did not stop the arrival of *Global Express*. Dramatic readings returned to Theatre B for a third successive year, and the performances were grander than ever. Artistic Director Maggie Conroy selected poems, short stories, and a radio play, gathered actors and directors from the Department of Theatre Arts and the Iowa City community, scheduled rehearsals, and eventually emceed. The packed house got a first act of poetry: a Mongolian poem, read in the original and English; an Israeli poem, followed by a rehearsed discussion of the difficulties inherent with translation; German poems delivered in translation by an actor working with a glass of water and a toy car; a bi-lingual poem-performance by a Vietnamese performance artist and an American modern dancer; and finally a Burmese poem, read in English, about Hiroshima. After the break three short stories (from Hungary, the Ukraine and Korea), having been adapted for the stage, were acted out in "story theatre" fashion. The final piece, an English play-within-a-play, had the audience rolling.

Flash ahead another week. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> MFA students in translation, Nicky Agate, Tegan Raleigh, and Jamie Richards launched a beautiful, new on-line journal of translations, called *eXchanges* ([www.uiowa.edu/~xchanges](http://www.uiowa.edu/~xchanges)). The literary publications from the University of Iowa, whether it is our own *91<sup>st</sup> Meridian* (<http://www.uiowa.edu/~iwp/91st>) or *TIR/The Iowa Review* (<http://www.uiowa.edu/~iareview>) often provide the first English-language platform for the work of writers visiting the International Writing Program. And *eXchanges* expands these possibilities. In fact the initial two issues of this ambitious new outlet have already featured four IWP writers.

A cabaret performance that brings together international poets and a world-renowned jazz musician; a reading series with some of the world's great writers; a night of dramatic readings featuring more than two dozen actors; on-line journals: in 2003, amid division and intolerance worldwide, the IWP continued to forge its unique brand of connections. The program's 36<sup>th</sup> year was rich in friendships and new ties as writers from twenty-one countries interwove themselves with the Iowa City community, with visiting scholars, guests of the program, and individuals and institutions across the country. These professional and personal bridges *are*, in a sense, the real IWP; formed in oblique and unpredictable ways, they hold the writers together long after they disperse.

Let us go back: the year seemed to begin in earnest one afternoon in spring. We had commenced a reading series the previous summer, in honor of Shambaugh House's move to 430 N. Clinton. Named for our new home, the Shambaugh House Reading Series has featured IWP writers, alumni of the program, and many other special guests, but no reading has been more passionately attended to than the one on a warm afternoon in mid-May when Pulitzer Prize winner and long-time Writer's Workshop teacher Donald Justice read from his selected poems. Young writers stood in the yard craning to the windows and they leaned in from the porch while the crowd inside quieted itself to hear the softly read lyrics.

A few writers in the audience had just arrived in Iowa City: the event marked the start of a weeklong visit by four writing fellows at Boston's William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences: Chris Agee, a poet and editor from Ireland; Adisa Basić, a young, dynamic poet from Sarajevo; Jean-Marie Kayishema, a playwright from Butare, Rwanda; and Nguyen Quang Thieu, a prolific writer considered to be among Vietnam's most important post-war poets. Keen to see the landscape of Iowa after Washington D.C. and New York, they went on trips to Kalona, Amana, West Branch, and were delighted by the Amish, Mennonite and Quaker cultures. It was an intense week, a mini-version of the fall residency: they met with Writers' Workshop faculty members, took tours of the Center for the Book and the Special Collections Department at the UI Library, attended the 2003 Iowa New Plays Festival, and spoke on the WSUI radio program *Know the Score*. Their wonderful visit culminated in a moving and serious reading given at Prairie Lights Books.

Through spring and summer, in the run-up to the residency, we worked with CIVIC to help host international visitors interested in literary exchange, the largest being a delegation of Russian editors and publishers visiting the US to study copyright issues. And when CIVIC hosted two Mongolian government officials in the fall, they spent a few hours with our first Mongolian IWP participant and a Writers' Workshop student doing his translations, Katherine Ives, a former Peace Corps volunteer in Mongolia. The city's and the university's ability to support writers and international visitors never fails to surprise!

After the reading by Donald Justice, the Shambaugh House Reading Series did not resume until the fall residency, when combinations of IWP writers read on Friday

evenings. Visiting alumna Maria Van Daalen (IWP '95) from the Netherlands gave a reading before the Stefon Harris cabaret, and Chile Night featured not only this year's Chilean writer, but also two IWP alumni currently at the university, Roberto Ampuero and Cristián Gómez. The widely-respected Palestinian writer Taha Muhammad Ali read with a vigor, intensity and wit matched only by his translator Peter Cole's English renditions. During the Landscape and Literature Conference, naturalist Scott Russell Sanders gave an intimate reading and talk in the Paul Engle Memorial Lounge. We were excited to host the poets and publishers Andrew Zawacki and Brian Henry, a reading graciously set up by Writers' Workshop professor Cole Swenson. We also joined with the Workshop to sponsor a weekly Sunday Reading Series at Prairie Lights, joining two writers from the IWP with one from the Workshop. And several of WSUI's *Live from Prairie Lights* readings were sponsored by the IWP, including the brilliant German translator Michael Hoffman, the young Nigerian novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche, the *grande dame* of Franco-Arabic poetry, Lebanon-born Venus Khoury-Ghata, and the riveting Israeli classicist and poet Aharon Shabtai.



*Denisa Comanescu, Hugh Ferrer, L. Dashnyam  
at the Milkweed Bookstore, Minneapolis, MN*

### The Residency

As this volume of readings implies, the 2003 residency was among the most productive in recent memory. Between August and November, there were few empty days on the calendar. When not visiting Hemingway Farm, Dane Farm, or Redbird Farm, Spillville and Effigy Mounds, the Bily Clock Museum, Kalona, or the McBride Raptor Center, the writers were often appearing at departmental events, for instance in Spanish and Portuguese, German, English, or at the Center for Asian and Pacific Languages, and International Programs. When not speaking to the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council, or on WSUI's *Live from the Java House*, they were lecturing to students at Senior College or the alternative high school students at SHAC. When not playing soccer or attending a performance at Hancher Auditorium, they were working with their translators. Every Wednesday, as has become a tradition, the Iowa City Public Library hosted a panel discussion on international and literary issues, which provided some of the most memorable moments from an intellectual standpoint. Every week, corralled by a topic but by no means confined to it, the writers offered insights into their work, their countries, and our world. The panel discussions are aired on a continuing basis on the local public access TV channel, and many of the presentations can be read on-line at the IWP website [www.uiowa.edu/~iwp](http://www.uiowa.edu/~iwp), on the "News and Current" page.

At the end of the residency, the writers take two weeks of individual travel to acquire a fuller view of the country, and to pursue particular research projects. But while they were still together, the residency took itself to Des Moines, Minneapolis-St. Paul, and Chicago, broadening the writers' sense of the Mid-West and exposing groups and institutions in those cities to the program.

In Des Moines we returned to the Des Moines Art Center, Central Academy, and Drake University's beautiful Cowles Library where, to commemorate the anniversary of 9/11/01, a panel of IWP writers discussed views of America now prevalent in other countries. The audience was the largest to date, their keen questions focusing on U.S. involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan. Handouts of the presentations flew out of the door. At the Art Center, through the help of curator Jill Pihlaja, the writers toured the museum's remarkable collection, had dinner in its café, and then joined the many locals for a screening of *To Live* in the presence of the novel's author Yu Hua, a member of the IWP residency. The next morning, it was unclear whether the writers were more excited by the advanced students at Des Moines' Central Academy, or if the students were more excited by what they termed "real writers." In either case, it is a partnership that the IWP is proud to continue.

2003 marked the first time the IWP visited Minneapolis-St. Paul as a group, and we took full advantage of the area's literary and cultural offerings. The writers enjoyed the Walker Sculpture Garden and the adjacent museum, the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the Minneapolis College of Art + Design, as well as the Loft Literary Center, whose new building, named "The Open Book," houses the Milkweed Editions small press and the

Minnesota Center for Book Arts. A tour of the Guthrie Theater, one of the keystones of American regional theater, was capped off by a performance of Tennessee Williams' *Night of the Iguana*.

A growing audience and interest keeps us returning to the University of Illinois at Chicago, where the IWP writers gave our now third annual reading and discussion. And we participated once more in the Chicago Humanities Festival, giving a panel on national versus international literatures. Since most of the writers departed from Chicago, the panel was no sooner over than we were driving several participants to the airport!

The manifold opportunities the writers had to present their work owed much to the group effort of friends in numerous departments and organizations. Mike Standaert, for example, made it possible for several of our writers to read in Rock Island, IL, at the Midwestern Writing Center. Three of our writers read at Ruminator Books in Minneapolis. The Empathy Conference, organized by the Project of the Rhetoric of Inquiry (POROI), included IWP members on its panels and as introducers. We began a new partnership with KHN Center for the Arts, which will enable a few of our writers to add short residencies in Nebraska City before they go home. This year, the University of Iowa Art Museum exhibited paintings by the Chinese multimedia artist Yan Li, one of our participants; and Dale Fisher there worked to bring the Museum's artist-in-residence, Chris Cozier from Trinidad, into contact with the writers. And one final example of the numerous partnerships that go into creating the unique environment of the IWP residency: this year the Daesan Foundation in Korea joined with us to include Iowa City on the American reading tour of Hwang Suk-young and IWP alumnus Hwang Ji-woo, offering not just a reading much anticipated by the Iowa City Korean community but also the opportunity for Ethan W. Kim, a Korean poet and translator in this year's residency, to share the stage with two of Korea's most important living writers.

In a time when national borders are increasingly closing, the writers this year were confronted with a United States in upheaval, an America whose perception of foreigners and foreignness is rapidly changing. They made us acutely aware of the tension taking hold between the government and the creative communities, a tension too common and sometimes too destructive elsewhere in the world. They wrestled with the implications of visiting the U.S. even while the country's image abroad was sinking to alarmingly low levels and its foreign policy was being ubiquitously criticized. Perhaps in part because of these shadows, the residency was a time of intense debate, informed dissent, and constant reconsideration for everyone. The writers' intelligence, curiosity, openness, breadth of personal and political experience, and their best intentions gave us an extraordinarily high level of discourse—the only suitable means of dealing with a problem as complex as the function of art at a time when so many lives are being marginalized or obliterated. We will remember this group as especially taken with American letters. As if to account for their fluctuating stance toward the culture as a whole, nearly all of this year's participants underscored the influence that American literary history—Melville, Poe, Whitman, Pynchon, O'Hara, Ashbery--had had on them; many of them became translators and editors of English texts for that reason. But we and the many Iowans who

came in contact with them will also hold in our minds the perspectives they shared on America's current withdrawal from forms of international consensus-building. Their novels and poems and stories, written and translated in dozens of languages, enter a world full of extremes on either side, and they confronted these paradoxes with care and grace. Throughout their stay, they were leading lights.



*Minae Mizumura walking past "Hare on Granite Bell" in the sculpture garden of the Walker Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN*

### Profiles of the 2003 Writers

Political pressure was nothing new to many of this year's participants. Our first-ever writer from Mongolia, **Dashnyam Luvsandamba**, had been a prominent participant in his country's fight for and transition to democracy. And once it was established, this poet and fiction writer ran for president! He did not win, but he did hint at a run for Parliament in 2004. At the other end of reform, unfortunately, is Burma. After a lifetime of engagement for his native culture, poet, literary critic and folklorist **Maung Swan Yi** (penname of U Win Pe) may not ever be able to return to his country. He treasured his

time in Iowa—not least because he could safely go for long walks every day, while at night --as he recounted at his Shambaugh House reading-- the police never banged on the doors of the Iowa House. And then there was our writer from Bosna-Herzegovina, ex-part of ex-Yugoslavia. During the years of civil war, **Mirsad Sirajić** was wounded so many times he lost count. He said that he thought his first collection of poetry would exorcise the demons the war had left him; then he hoped the second collection would succeed where the first had failed. He is now working on a third, and has returned to Sarajevo to continue his archeological research, rooting in the region's medieval history to unknot the more recent political past.

Oppression comes in many forms. In the work of Ukrainian fiction writer **Yevgeniya Kononenko** (penname of Yevgeniya Myagka), social and sexual politics get turned inside-out; in a cycle of her “Pantyhose” stories the rust-gripped social forms provide a source of irony and laugh-out-loud humor. Such tart wit—at play for example when she described the overbearing presence of Russian literature on the shelves of Ukrainian bookstores—constantly reminded that no criticism is more efficient than a good joke. **Yu Hua** has become famous in China through of immensely popular, pathos-laden novels and stories which dramatize a century of suffering by the Chinese people; yet like Ms. Kononenko, he can't resist cracking a joke. After a screening at the Des Moines Art Center of *To Live*, a film he co-wrote and which portrayed many of the Cultural Revolution's terrible consequences, he was asked if he didn't worry about censorship. The censors, he replied, don't read long novels. (If all the reports we have heard are true, then the censors would be the only people in China *not* reading Yu Hua's novels.) Hungarian writer **Gábor Szántó**, likewise an inheritor of great historical suffering, has struggled to write through the contradictions of everyday experience for post-Holocaust Jews in Eastern Europe. As he explained in his paper “Why I Write,” presented in October at the Iowa City Public Library, the shadow of the Shoah has led the two succeeding generations to either silence or to various forms of extreme political conformity, including that of joining up the repressive establishment of the Hungarian Communist Party. All these repressed pasts need to be acknowledged, opened up, scrutinized. For these three writers, the decay or reform of Communism—even in China—has given them more room to work; but “the fall of the wall” had its artistic victims, too. To the poet **Denisa Comanescu** (penname of Romania's Denisa Prelipceanu), in whom literature ran as deeply as politics, not a single poem came . . . for more than a decade. She began her reading at Prairie Lights with “Return from Exile,” which opens: “*Eleven years, four months, and seventeen days. / Was it a short exile?...*” (This poem is due to appear in the August 2004 issue of *The Iowa Review*.)

The dynamic Irishman **Paddy Woodworth** has gradually been shifting his focus from political matters to an issue uppermost for many of this year's writers: the environment. Long an editor at *The Irish Times*' desk in Spain, Mr. Woodworth discovered in the Basque region's terrorism and counter-terrorism a prism in which to analyze the troubles in Northern Ireland, a prism also revealing of the fight against terrorism being waged now by the United States. His probing *Dirty War, Clean Hands: ETA, the GAL and Spanish Democracy* (Yale U P, 2002) kept his date book bursting with speaking



engagements during the residency. Yet he was also an avid birder, traveling extensively to research bird migration and preservation for his next book; he was one of several writers who especially cherished the program's prairie field trips and the events attached to the Landscape and Literature Festival. His most kindred spirit in this regard was **Gregory Norminton**, our youngest writer, a pithy, prolific and eloquent novelist from England. Environmental damage aroused his greatest passions and some of his finest writing—"Egdon and the Eco-Worrier," the paper he delivered at the Landscape and Literature conference--makes one hope that he continues to devote a portion of his considerable literary talent towards environmental advocacy. Korean scholar and poet **Ethan (Won-chung) Kim** offered a working model for combining literary pursuits and concern for the environment. He has written widely about contemporary American eco-poets such as Gary Snyder, Wendell Berry, and A.R. Ammons; serves now as vice-president of ASLE Korea (Association for the Study of Literature and Environment), edits *Literature and Environment*, and on several occasions opened our eyes about contemporary Korean eco-poetry, the subject of one of the many anthologies of Korean poetry he is translating or co-translating into English. However, if the power of dwelling attentively in a place could be summarized, it was perhaps best done by our writer from Norway. Mild-mannered but steadfastly honest, at the closing public panel called "Images of America" **Brit Bildøen** confessed that before this visit she had despaired at the direction the foreign policy was taking this country, but over the course of two months here it was because of the commitment and spirit of the local naturalists working to restore Iowa's prairie that seeds of hope and solidarity sprang within her.

When Korean novelist Hwang Suk-young visited Iowa City in October to read with Ethan Kim and IWP alumnus Hwang Ji-Woo, he predicted this next century would be the "century of the refugee;" the world more than ever may come to resemble our own nation of immigrants. In an October 29<sup>th</sup> speech to the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council, **Alejandra Costamagna** addressed the predicament of one such immigrant family—her own:

Many times, perhaps all my life, I have been asking myself what Chile is and . . . I still don't have the answers. Maybe it has something to do with the fact that although I was born and raised, I've lived and I'm still living, in that country, I don't really have Chilean blood: my parents and my grandparents are Argentineans. And from there backwards my family tree moves towards Italy . . . I could speak about homeland only if we understand that this word refers to a way of seeing the world rather than to any precise geography. And if we speak in these terms, such homeland would include friends, street smells, maybe some favorite bar, certain books and certain indispensable records, some letters received in the past, a couple of phone calls that we never forget. Only this. This invented homeland is our interior city that we inhabit and which determines our moods, our vision of the world and our sense of existence . . . In the end, we are all a bit foreigners in this mental homeland. Or, seen from a different side, we all belong to the same world.

Argentina's **Leopoldo Brizuela**, was equally sensitive to the layerings of language and identity in Latin America. His prize-winning novel *Inglaterra: Una fabula* charts evolutions in language, culture, and the imagination by focusing on the first waves of New World colonization, depicting, for example, 19<sup>th</sup> century Indian genocides in order to refract the disappearances and unspeakable brutalities of the recent military dictatorship. Such great movements of peoples and their cultures inevitably cut in many ways. If literature is, as Mr. Brizuela contended at the Chicago Humanities Festival, "a kind of faraway and unexpected port where Shakespeare and the Indians, Proust and the humble peasants of Italy, the tango star Carlos Gardel and the Simpsons finally meet and begin to talk," then it is also in danger (he warned) of being washed out—neutralized—by globalizing forces.

*"I began to adopt for my writing ideas and techniques of any "non realistic" story I could find—from fairy tales to fantasy/science fiction fables, from the gothic of Isaak Dinesen and Angela Carter to the Indian myths of America, from the fantastic literature of Borges to the romantic German novellas. By becoming less and less realist, I intended to be more faithful to our reality."* –

Leopoldo Brizuela's talk on "Fantasy and Reality," Iowa City Public Library, 9/3/03.

**Minae Mizumura**, who spent much of her youth on Long Island, then taught briefly at Princeton before returning to her native Japan, seemed to balance her life and brilliant work over this current of danger: in the space where it becomes impossible to straddle two cultures, the local, singular one and the second that is more universal. Having turned her back on English when it was most available, she calls it an "unhappy knowledge" that she now writes in Japanese always acutely aware of its historic resonance and geopolitical limit. At the same time, she explained, the language has given her a home—she writes not only to stem a tyranny of English, but also to see what is possible, what lies in the future, for her mother tongue. What must one do, though, when straddling of cultures is the story of one's life? Growing up in the DMZ, award-winning Korean writer **Kim Young-Ha** lived literally on the border. Through his most recent work, he has begun to track the pushmi-pullyu of physical and cultural colonization. His most recent novel *Black Flower* (Seoul, 2003) for example, follows the lives of a group of 1,033 Koreans who immigrated to Mexico in 1905 to escape Japanese rule; and the opening chapter of his next book, which he was writing in Iowa, tells of the morning his father, a battalion commander, tried to prepare a VIP latrine for President Jimmy Carter and his entourage, all of whom were scheduled to helicopter into the DMZ that afternoon—the resulting contraption held water for only three flushes!

As these and other writers at this year's residency made clear, it is increasingly American culture and the English language that are doing the colonizing; these are the cultural forces artists worldwide must parse. We learned much this year about the U.S.A.'s faults, about the disparity between images promoted here and those seen elsewhere, and about the hazards of that disparity. At the same time we learned that "America" remains in many ways a model; its cultural achievements an inspiration. Several writers arrived

tremendously fluent in American culture, their visits meant in large part to test our ideals in concrete circumstances, and to explore all the complexities of that influence.

*"[...] the proper American culture is neither high nor low; it wants to be total and integral, able to depict the human life as an undivided whole. This is precisely what Harold Bloom, a great advocate of the specificity of this new culture, calls 'American religion.' This American Religion [...] has nothing to do with the fundamentalist, ultrapuritan protestantism nobody in Europe was and ever will be fond of - yet a lot with [Emerson's] preaching of his famous principle of 'self-reliance.' Self-reliance is precisely the Greek hubris turned into a positive passion ..."*

Agata Bielik-Robson, "A Culture Truly Democratic," Panel, "America Abroad," Drake University, 9/11/04

Most exemplary of such explorers was **Marcin Senddecki**, one of a generation of Polish poets strongly influenced by the New York School of poetry, who availed himself of the IWP almost exclusively as a cultural program. His uncanny knowledge of American letters and culture was fed by a curiosity that led him

beyond Iowa City's vibrant literary life into its wider community, so that on any given day he was just as likely to be sitting with construction workers as with colleagues in the program.

By contrast, it seemed at times as though **Matthias Göritz** from Germany and **Yan Li** from China had simply come home! Both had firm footing in the American idiom, having lived in New York, and were able to speak fluently back and forth between their home cultures and this one. Mr. Li was an especially taut bridge—he taught an undergraduate seminar for the Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, some of his artwork went on display at the UI Museum of Art, and he was always ready to assist in translating for Mr. Yu, who was never sufficiently comfortable with his own English. Meeting the Vietnamese poet and performance artist **Ly Hoang Ly**, one would have assumed no particular American influence beyond the negative impact of the war between the two countries, but to students in the International Literature Today class she revealed a strong inheritance from American art: her father had spent time in jail for his poetry, which had been heavily influenced by the Beats. (Videos of her performance pieces can be seen online at [http://www.vietnam-finearts.com/Video\\_Clip/](http://www.vietnam-finearts.com/Video_Clip/).) Inversely, while one might want to draw quick conclusions about the American inspirations cited by Israeli poet **Shimon Adaf** (Edgar Allan Poe, William Carlos Williams, the comic-book artist Stan Lee, and Lou Reed, among many others), any particularly American "flavor" in his work seems swallowed in an eclectic mix of influences. He is the co-founder of a literary group, *Ev*, which seeks to introduce into Hebrew literature a new poetical language merging ancient and modern Hebrew; his translations into Hebrew range from Mallarmé to John Cage, and the linguistic and historical array arising in his poetry resembles, if anything, the palettes of Mr. Brizuela and Ms. Mizumura.

Like many of our writers this year, Mr. Adaf was deeply involved in music. We had joked in the summer that the residency would have enough musical talent for a band, and

11.

*Every dark twig of winter  
Is loaded with bullets of green  
Just waiting for Spring to pull the  
trigger*

12.

*Lie down with an easy mind  
Your grave is the womb of God*

13.

*Quietly folding the wind under its  
wings  
A lazy beetle at the tip of a blade  
Is seesawing with bright green*

14.

*Over the spot where the stove was  
moved away  
My saucepan is still poised at a  
rolling boil*

15.

*Blank paper has thickness without  
limit  
Start delving and there is no end to  
it*

16.

*Birds on a withered branch  
Drift off like falling leaves  
Bygone springtime is mounted on  
the wall  
I am the paste, not yet dry*

[...]

Yan LI, from *Spinning Polyhedral  
Mirror: Poems 1990-2000*

we were not far off (as Tuesday night Open Mic nights demonstrated). Lithuanian poet **Gintaras Grajauskas**, a bassist and a student of jazz, was the first to step forward at the collaborative workshop with world-renowned jazz vibraphonist Stefon Harris and his band. The workshop was a test of the universality of poetry's music: could Mr. Harris's quartet jam to a poem in Lithuanian, that most ancient of Europe's languages? The Friday night cabaret performance in the Wheelroom opened up the musicality of Lithuanian and eight other languages. Among the most notable performances were a love poem by Korean poet **Jeong Han-yong**, which the quartet draped in a steamy, syncopated ambience; and the closing poem by this year's only African writer, **Barolong Seboni** from Botswana, whose "Molepolole" unexpectedly ballooned into an arms-lifted chant, an incantation rising on exploding percussion. The night established beyond a doubt that at least some elements of good poetry have universal appeal.

Such transpositions and translations run through the heart of the IWP—tracing unexpected connections or collaborating to create something new. Everywhere one looked this year, some kind of translation was taking place. The most elaborate project being undertaken belonged to Polish philosopher and cultural critic **Agata Bielik-Robson** who, when she was not doing research at the library, singing or playing guitar, nursing a soccer injury, pumping quarters in a jukebox, or debating politics, was re-writing and deepening for British and American audiences her most recent academic work, *The Spirit of the Surface: Romantic Prolegomena to Any Future Philosophy of Subjectivity*. At the same time a few doors down, Mr. Seboni was bringing into English a treasure-trove of Setswana folklore

gathered by his grandfather, a record of more than a thousand riddles and sayings. Mr. Brizuela was translating into Spanish some of Mr. Adaf's poetry, Ms. Ly was translating into Vietnamese Ms. Costamagna's fiction. Translation graduate students and writers from the Writers' Workshop were at it, too, students like former Peace Corps volunteer Katie Ives, who made so much Mr. Dashnyam's poetry and stories available to those of us who do not read Mongolian.

The resonance of these connections and new overlappings cannot be measured exclusively in the short-term. Every month we learn of new collaborations between IWP alumni, of invitations to gatherings in each other's countries, translations arranged, and bridges kept open. A network was formed at the 2003 IWP, a creative network of intelligent, highly talented writers aware more than ever of the need for dialogue and understanding across borders of every kind.

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## **Program Support**

The program has carried on its worldwide mission only through the unwavering support of the University of Iowa, of federal, state, corporate and community sources, as well as many individuals. While we have tried to do our best, it is impossible for us to cite all the helping hands extended toward us in the past year since, amid all our transitions, the hands have been myriad. We acknowledge our debt to the following entities and institutions, and ask the forgiveness of those whom we may have inadvertently overlooked.

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 Department of Spanish and Portuguese: chair Daniel Balderston and Professor Adriana Mendez  
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 The Institute for Cinema and Culture  
 The School of Art and Art History: Professor Susan White and lab coordinator Anthony Sutowski  
 Urban and Regional Planning: Professor James Throgmorton  
 Iowa Project on Place Studies: coordinator Thomas Dean  
 Project on the Rhetoric of Inquiry (POROI)  
 University of Iowa Museum of Art: curator Vickie Rovine and administrator Jo Lavera Jones  
 The School of Library Sciences: Professor James Elmborg, and research assistants Ernest Cox and Jen Wochner  
 Our colleagues in publications: David Hamilton, editor of *The Iowa Review*; Holly Carver, director of the University of Iowa Press, and Thomas Swiss, editor of *TIR Review*

•**Programming Support**

Jim Harris and the staff of Prairie Lights Books, notably Paul Ingram, Jan Weissmuller, Kathleen Johnson and David Sarno  
 Graphic designer Glen Epstein, and IWP website designer Modei Akyea  
 Broadcast communications at KSUI and WSUI: Joan Kjaer, Dennis Reese and Ben Kieffer  
 Mike Sissel, Elaine Shalla, and the staff of Meacham Travel Service

•**Federal, state, and local government institutions**

The US Department of State: Program Officer Janet Beard and her staff  
 Public Affairs Officers at the United States Embassies of Argentina, Botswana, Chile, Hungary, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, United Kingdom, Ukraine and Vietnam  
 The Institute of International Education: Project Coordinator Mary Neal  
 U.S. Congressman James A. Leach, 1st district, State of Iowa, and his staff  
 The staff of U.S. Senator Charles Grassley  
 The staff of U.S. Senator Tom Harkin  
 Iowa City Mayor Ernest Lehman and the City Council of Iowa City  
 The Iowa City Public Library: coordinator of community and AV services Kara Logsdon, and AV specialist Beth Fisher

•**Outreach opportunities provided by other institutions**

The Chicago Humanities Festival, president and executive producer Eileen Makevich and her staff, notably Margaret Keller  
 The Des Moines School District: Talented and Gifted Program coordinator Arlene DeVries  
 The Des Moines Art Center: museum education director Jill Pihlaja and curator Laura Burkhalter  
 Drake University: President and Mrs. David Maxwell, and librarian Rod Henshaw  
 University of Illinois at Chicago, Professor Judith Kegan Gardiner  
 Humanities Iowa: executive director Christopher R. Rossi, and Jonathan Jordahl  
 The Portland Stage Company, and Lisa DiFranza of Portland, ME  
 Coe College, Cedar Rapids: Professor Robert Marrs  
 Longfellow Elementary School: Ms. Jackson and Ms. Maske  
 Senior High Alternative Center: Carrie Watson and Ben Mosher  
 The Paul Engle Center, Cedar Rapids, IA  
 Guthrie Theatre, Minneapolis, MN  
 The Loft Literary Center, Minneapolis, MN  
 Walker Art Museum, Minneapolis, MN  
 Minneapolis College of Art and Design  
 Nebraska Center for the Arts  
 Midwestern Writing Center, Rock Island, IL



Lannan Foundation, Santa Fe, NM  
Hillel Center, Iowa City

•**Writer-support and hospitality provided by the community**

Firstar Bank: president William Burger, executive assistant Amy Bess, and assistant branch manager Vernetta Knapp  
Drs. Ramon and Victoria Lim, Prof. and Mrs. Yinyu Ye, Dr. Shiling Sun, and IWP co-founder Hualing Nieh Engle  
Mr. William Quarton  
Mr. Daniel Baldwin, president and CEO, Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation  
Mr. Yannick Mercoyrol, Consulate General of France, Chicago, IL  
Dr. Phyllis Bardach  
Dr. Anna and Jim Barker  
Curtis Bauer  
Barry Casselman  
C.C.Cole  
Allegra and John Dane  
Jane Ferrer  
Kate Gleeson  
Joanne, Keith and David Hemingway  
Professor Jae-on Kim  
Jean and Richard Lloyd-Jones  
Merl and Jean Meyers  
William Martin, *The Chicago Review*  
Mark Müller  
Wilma and Larry Rettig  
Viana Rockel  
Mike Standaert  
Noah at Zip Drive  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Woolford, Rowayton (CT)

•**IWP Advisory Board**

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Sandra Barkan, Assistant Dean, Graduate College  
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**•The foundations and cultural institutions that provided funding to support the participation of this year's writers**

The United States Department of State  
 The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation  
 The Alfred Jurzykowski Foundation  
 The Freeman Foundation  
 The Max Kade Foundation  
 The US-Israel Educational Foundation  
 UI Chinese Community  
 Korea Literary Translation Institute  
 Korean Cultural and Arts Foundation  
 CEC/ArtsLink  
 The Scholars at Risk Network

**•Individuals instrumental in the completion of the Shambaugh House**

Gary Nagle, architect  
 Philip Kolbo, project manager

**•Individuals and organizations participating in the Joiner Center visit**

Chris Agee  
 Adisa Basić  
 Jean Marie Kayishema  
 Nguyen Quang Thieu  
 Donald Justice  
 Joan Kjaer, host of *Know the Score*, KSUI  
 UI Museum of Art  
 Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, docent Jan Ericson  
 Tom Baldrige and CIVIC  
 Lisa DiFranza, Portland Stage Company, Portland, ME  
 Leonard Berkman, Smith College, Northampton, NH  
 Tanya Palmer, Actor's Theater, Louisville, KY  
 Father Elias Chacour  
 Sid Huttner, Special Collections Head, UI Main Library  
 Scattergood Boarding School, West Branch, IA

Prairie Lights Bookstore  
 Sharon Degraw, UI Center for the Book  
 Ethan Canin, Writer's Workshop interim director  
 James Galvin



### **HONOR ROLL OF CONTRIBUTORS TO THE INTERNATIONAL WRITING PROGRAM**

This honor roll gratefully recognizes individuals and organizations who contributed to the International Writing Program through The University of Iowa Foundation. This list includes those who have given from January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003.

Babb, Florence E., Iowa City, Iowa  
 Barkan, Joel D., Iowa City, Iowa  
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 Zamastil, Norine M., Fairfax, Iowa



*Leopoldo Brizuela, Agata Bielik-Robson and Marcin Sendeki  
at the Chicago Humanities Festival*

**Panel Discussions at the Iowa City Public Library: Topics for 2003**

Texts available at [www.uiowa.edu/~iwp/EVEN/EVENmain.html](http://www.uiowa.edu/~iwp/EVEN/EVENmain.html)

Wednesday September 3

**Fantasy and Reality**

Agata Bielik-Robson (Poland), Leopoldo Brizuela (Argentina), Jeong Han Yong (South Korea), and Hoang Ly (Vietnam).

Wednesday September 10

**America Abroad**

Gregory Norminton (England), Yevgeniya Kononenko (Ukraine), Yan Li (China), and Anna Livesy (New Zealand)

Thursday September 11

**America Abroad** (at Drake University, Des Moines)

Paddy Woodworth (Ireland), Agata Bielik-Robson (Poland), Matthias Göritz (Germany), and Kim Young-Ha (Korea)

Wednesday September 17

**Literature & the Other Arts**

Yan Li (China), Shimon Adaf (Israel), Gintaras Grajauskas (Lithuania), Alejandra Costamagna (Chile), and L. Dashnyam (Mongolia).

Wednesday September 24

**Writers as Readers**

Marcin Sendeki (Poland), Joeng Han Yong (South Korea), Gintaras Grajauskas (Lithuania), and Leopoldo Brizuela (Argentina).

Wednesday October 8

**Landscape & Literature**

Ethan W. Kim (Korea), L. Dashnyam (Mongolia), Matthias Göritz (Germany), Paddy Woodworth (Ireland), Gregory Norminton (England), and Chris Cozier (Trinidad).

Wednesday October 15

**Why I Write What I Write and How I Write**

Gábor T. Szántó (Hungary), Alejandra Costamagna (Chile), L. Dashnyam (Mongolia), and Barolong Seboni (Botswana).

Wednesday October 22

**Literary Translation, Literary Criticism**

Ethan W. Kim (Korea), Denisa Comanescu (Romania), Maung Swan Yi (Burma), and Minae Mizumura (Japan).

Wednesday October 29

**Why I Write What I Write II**

Mirsad Sijarić (Bosnia), Minae Mizumura (Japan), Yu Hua (China), Kim Young-Ha (Korea), and Yevgeniya Kononenko (Ukraine).

Wednesday November 5

**Images of America**

All IWP participants

### **Class Presentations in International Literature Today [181:191]**

Held Mondays 3:30-5:30 PM, 40 Schaeffer Hall  
Writers discuss their works in 20-minute presentations

September 8

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Matthias Göritz (Germany), Marcin Sendeki (Poland), Shimon Adaf (Israel) and Gábor Szántó (Hungary)

September 15

---

Leopoldo Brizuela (Argentina), Alexandra Costamagna (Chile) and Paddy Woodworth (Ireland)

September 22

---

Jeong Han Yong (Korea), Ethan Kim (Korea), Young-Ha Kim (Korea) and L. Dashnyam (Mongolia)

October 6

---

Britt Bildøen (Norway), Yu Hua (China) and Denisa Comanescu (Romania)

October 13

---

Minae Mizumura (Japan), Maung Swan Yi (Burma) and Barolong Seboni (Botswana)

October 20

---

Agata Bielik-Robson (Poland), Yan Li (China) and Yevgeniya Kononenko (Ukraine)

October 27

---

Gregory Norminton (England), Hoang Ly (Vietnam), Mirsad Sijarić (Bosnia) and Gintaras Grajauskas (Lithuania)

**Prairie Lights Readings**  
**[with students from the Writers' Workshop]**

**September 7**

Marcin Sendeki (Poland)  
 Paddy Woodworth (Ireland)  
 Benjamin Caldwell (WW)

**September 14**

Kim Young-Ha (Korea)  
 Denisa Comanescu (Romania)  
 Broc Rossell (WW)

**September 21**

Matthias Göritz (Germany)  
 Leopoldo Brizuela (Argentina)  
 Anne O'Reilly (WW)

**October 5**

Jeong Han Yong (Korea)  
 Yevgeniya Kononenko (Ukraine)  
 Steve Kramp (WW)

**October 19**

Shimon Adaf (Israel)  
 Minae Mizumura (Japan)  
 Sugi Ganeshanathan (WW)

**October 26**

Mirsad Sijarić (Bosnia)  
 Gregory Norminton (England)  
 Deb Kuan (WW)



*Gintarus Grajauskas and  
 Maung Swan Yi in Minneapolis*



## Shambaugh House Readings

### September 5

Yan Li - China

L. Dashnyam – Mongolia

Ly Hoang Ly - Vietnam

Maung Swan Yi - Burma

### September 26: *Chile Night*

Alejandra Costamagna

Roberto Ampuero

Cristián Gómez

### September 19

Maria Van Daalen – The Netherlands

### October 3: *Janusz Bardach Memorial Reading*

Agata Bielik-Robson – Poland

Gábor Szántó - Hungary

Gintaras Grajauskas - Lithuania

Kate Gleeson – Iowa City

### October 24

Barolong Seboni - Botswana

Brit Bildøen – Norway

Minae Mizumura - Japan



### **Readings Sponsored or Co-Sponsored by the IWP**

April 1	Semezdin Mehmedinović and Carolyn Forché, Biology Bldg East
May 9	Donald Justice, Shambaugh House
Sept. 4	Michael Hofmann, Prairie Lights
Sept. 15	Venus Khoury-Ghata, Prairie Lights
Sept. 16	Frederick Turner, Prairie Lights
Sept. 22	Taha Muhammad Ali, Shambaugh House
Oct. 17	Bob Shacochis, Shambaugh Auditorium
Oct. 17	Jim Harrison, Van Allen Hall
Oct. 24	Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche, Prairie Lights
Oct. 28	Aharon Shabtai, Prairie Lights
Nov. 2	Peter Matthiessen, Shambaugh Auditorium.
Nov. 10	Alberto Fuguet, Prairie Lights



### Other Public Readings and Talks

- Sept. 7 Denisa Comanescu and Gregory Norminton read at the Midwest Writing Center in Rock Island, IL
- Sept. 11 IWP panel discussion at Drake University, "America Abroad," featuring Paddy Woodworth, Matthias Göritz, Kim Young-Ha, and Agata Bielik-Robson
- Sept. 11 Screening of Yu Hua's *To Live*, Des Moines Art Center
- Sept. 18-21 Screening of Yu Hua's *To Live* at the Bijou in the IMU
- Sept. 19 Stefon Harris performance with IWP writers at IMU Wheel Room
- Sept. 28 IWP reading at Ruminator Books in Minneapolis-St. Paul
- Oct. 7 Panel discussion at Coe College: "Writing and Politics."
- Oct. 10 IWP writers appear on WSUI's *Live From the Java House*
- Oct. 10-12 Landscape and Literature Conference. IWP writers, members of the UI community, and distinguished national guests explore and discuss the relationship between landscape, place and literature in a variety of media, including poetry, fiction and film.
- Oct. 15 The IWP's Kim Won-Chung reads with novelist Hwang Suk-Young and poet Hwang Ji-Woo (IWP '00) in Biology Bldg East
- Oct. 18 *Global Express* at Theatre B, Theatre Arts Building
- Nov. 6 Reading, B. Seboni, A. Costamagna, D. Comanescu and Hoang Ly at University of Illinois, Chicago campus, Addams Hall
- Nov. 8 Chicago Humanities Festival, "Exchange Rates" panel, Polish Museum of America, featuring A. Bielik-Robson, L. Brizuela, M. Sijarić, B. Bildøen, M. Göritz, and B. Seboni



### Field Trips, Receptions and Cultural Events

Opening party	Monday, 8/25, Merrill home
Cedar Rapids Kernels game	Thursday, 8/28, Cedar Rapids
Nature walk	Sunday, 8/31, Coralville reservoir
Alternative high school tour	Thursday, 9/4, Senior High Alternative
Breakfast	Saturday, 9/6, Arts & Humanities Initiative
Reception with Writers' Workshop	Saturday, 9/6, Merrill home
Overnight stay in Des Moines	Thursday, 9/11, Des Moines
Tour of Des Moines Art Center	Thursday, 9/11, Des Moines
Amana Colonies visit	Saturday, 9/20, Rettig home, South Amana
Stefon Harris performance	Saturday, 9/20, Hancher Auditorium
Roundtable on international publishing	Friday, 9/26, Shambaugh House
Hemingway farm tour	Saturday, 9/27, Hemingway farm
Minneapolis-St. Paul trip	Sunday, 9/ 28 through Wednesday 10/1
Janusz Bardach memorial reception	Friday, 10/3, Merrill home
Spillville, Effigy Mounds field trip	Saturday, 10/4
West African Drummers	Sunday, 10/19, Hancher Auditorium
US Bank reception	Tuesday, 10/21, US Bank, Iowa City
Dane Harvest Picnic	Saturday, 10/25, Dane farm
<i>eXchanges</i> launch party	Saturday, 10/25, Agate home
Talk with photographer Peter Turnley	Sunday, 10/26, Shambaugh House
Prairie burn	Saturday, 11/1, Müller Farm
"Reflections on Home" film series	Saturday, 11/1, 101 BCSB
Prairie walk with Peter Matthiessen	Sunday, 11/2, F.W. Kent Park
Closing party	Sunday, 11/2, Shambaugh House



### Writers of the 2003 International Writing Program: Funding Agencies

Argentina	(Mr.) Leopoldo Brizuela	novelist	U.S. Department of State
Bosnia	(Mr.) Mirsad Sijarić	poet, novelist	CEC/ArtsLink
Botswana	(Mr.) Barolong Seboni	poet	U.S. Department of State
Burma	(Mr.) Maung Swan Yi	poet	The Open Society Institute
Chile	(Ms.) Alejandra Costamagna	novelist	U.S. Department of State
China	(Mr.) Yan Li	novelist	The Freeman Foundation
China	(Mr.) Yu Hua	novelist	UI Chinese Community
England	(Mr.) Gregory Norminton	novelist	U.S. Department of State
Germany	(Mr.) Matthias Göritz	poet	The Max Kade Foundation
Hungary	(Mr.) Gábor T. Szántó	fiction writer	U.S. Department of State
Ireland	(Mr.) Paddy Woodworth	essayist	The W. Quarton Foundation
Israel	(Mr.) Shimon Adaf	poet	The US Israel Educational Fund
Japan	(Ms.) Minae Mizumura	novelist	The Freeman Foundation
Korea	(Mr.) Han-Yong Jeong	poet	Korean Cultural Affairs
Korea	(Mr.) Ethan Kim	poet	The Freeman Foundation
Korea	(Mr.) Young-Ha Kim	fiction writer	Korea Literature Translation Institute
Lithuania	(Mr.) Gintaras Grajauskas	poetry	U.S. Department of State
Mongolia	(Mr.) Dashnyam Luvsandamba	poet, fiction	The W. Quarton Foundation
Norway	(Ms.) Brit Bildøen	fiction writer	U.S. Department of State
Poland	(Ms.) Agata Bielik-Robson	essayist	The Jurzykowski Foundation
Poland	(Mr.) Marcin Sendeki	poet	U.S. Department of State
Romania	(Ms.) Denisa Comanescu	poet	U.S. Department of State
Ukraine	(Ms.) Yevgeniya Kononenko	fiction writer	U.S. Department of State
Vietnam	(Ms.) Ly Hoang Ly	poet	U.S. Department of State



*Alejandra Costamagna and Yevgeniya Kononenko listen to questions at an ICPL panel*

### Participant Biographies

**Shimon ADAF** (poet, translator, essayist, guitarist; Israel, b. 1972, Ashkelon) is a founding member of *Ev*, a literary group that seeks to introduce into Hebrew literature a new poetic language merging ancient and modern Hebrew. He received the Israeli Ministry of Education's Award in 1996 for his first collection of poems, *The Monologue of Icarus* (Gvanim, 1997). His second collection, *That Which I Thought Shadow is the Real Body*, was published in 2002 by Keter, the publishing house in which he now works as editor. His work has been translated into English, Dutch, and Italian. He has done translations of Mallarmé, Blanchot, and John Cage, as well as contributing weekly to a leading Israeli paper on subjects such as cinema, literature, and music. In 1994 he joined the rock group *Ha'atzula* ("Aristocracy") as a songwriter and acoustic guitar player. They released their first album, *Need*, in 1996 and he has since collaborated with some of Israel's most prominent rock artists.

**Agata BIELIK-ROBSON** (philosopher; Poland, b. 1966, Warsaw) received her M.A. from Warsaw University and her PhD from The Polish Academy of Sciences, which gave her a special award for her thesis, “The Crisis of the Subject in Contemporary Philosophy.” She has presented many papers in journals and at conferences over the past decade, as well as publishing *On the Other Side of Nihilism: Contemporary Philosophy in Search for a New Subjectivity* (1997, IFIS PAN Press), and *Other Modernity: A Hidden Life of the Modern Soul* (2000, Universitas), and translated Harold Bloom’s seminal *The Anxiety of Influence* into Polish. Her recent work on the Romantic conception of subjectivity, *The Spirit of the Surface. Romantic Prolegomena to Any Future Philosophy of Subjectivity* (forthcoming in Polish, Universitas) aims, via its translation into English, “to show the Anglo-Saxon reader the unity, as well as actuality, of the Romantic movement perceived from both the British-American and Central European perspectives.” Dr. Bielik writes, “although I was originally trained as a philosopher, I often find more inspiration in the field of literature than in strictly academic philosophical writings. I am a strong advocate of the ‘literary style’ in philosophy, as well as of bringing together these two crucial domains of contemporary humanities.”

**Leopoldo BRIZUELA** (novelist, poet, translator; Argentina, b. 1963, La Plata) is among Argentina’s most prominent writers. His first novel, *Tejiendo Agua (Knitting in Water)*, (1985) won the Fortbat Prize. *Inglaterra. Una fábula (England. A fable)*, (1999), a novel about an English company of Shakespearean actors who travel to Patagonia to play in front of the same Fuegian tribes who inspired the character of Caliban, won the most important Argentinean prize, the Premio Clarín de Novela. He has also published a collection of short stories (*Los que llegamos más legos*, 2002), a collection of poems (*Fado*, 1995), a collection of interviews (*Historia de un deseo*, 2000), the first Argentinean anthology of fiction on homosexuality, and three books about creative writing. He has translated Flannery O’Connor, Henry James, and Guy de Maupassant into Spanish. Currently, he teaches creative writing, contributes to the two most important Argentinean newspapers (*Clarín* and *La Nación*), and is writing a novel set in Lisbon during WW II. His works have been published in Portugal, Spain, Germany, Brazil, and France.

**Denisa COMANESCU** (pen name of Denisa Prelipceanu) (poet, editor, translator; Romania, b. 1954, Buzau) has coordinated a series of world literature, “Biblioteca Polirom,” at Polirom Publishing House since 2001, but has been an editor for more than twenty years. After her debut in the literary journal *Romania literara* in 1975, *Izgonirea din Paradise (Banishment from Paradise)*, (1979), her first book of poetry, won the Debut Prize of the Writers’ Union. Since then she has published four more volumes of poetry which enjoy a wide readership both in Romania and abroad and have garnered numerous accolades. A distinguished translator, she has published selections of Alan Brownjohn’s and Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin’s poetry, and edited the bilingual Romanian/Polish anthology, *Strong-28 Women Poets of Romania* (1999). She is currently working on an anthology of Romanian women’s poetry composed between 1960-2003. Ms. Comanescu was a founding member of the Civic Alliance (an association of Romanian intellectuals set up

in 1990 whose ongoing purpose has been to strengthen the civil society), and has been the Secretary of the Romanian PEN Center for thirteen years.

**Alejandra COSTAMAGNA** (fiction writer, journalist; Chile, b. 1970, Santiago) is an active figure on the Chilean literary scene, having facilitated much-acclaimed creative writing workshops at the University of Chile and Catholic University of Chile as well as other private cultural centers. She has published three novels and one book of short stories, *Malas noches* (*Bad Nights*, 2000). Her first novel, *En voz baja* (*In a Low Voice*, 1996), won the Gabriela Mistral Literary Games Award. Her second novel was *Ciudadano en Retiro* (*Citizen in Retirement*, 1998), and her third novel, *Cansado ya del sol* (*Already Tired of the Sun*, 2002), was a finalist in the Planeta Argentina Award in 2000. Many of her short stories have been adapted for theater production and published in anthologies, including *Se Habla Español*. Ms. Costamagna currently writes book reviews for *Santiago Culture Magazine*, contributes to the literature section of the Chilean *Rolling Stone*, and maintains a column in the *Journalist*.

**Luvsandamba DASHNYAM** (poet and scholar; Mongolia, b.1943, in Tarvagant) is President of the Mongolian Knowledge University and of the Academy of Humanities. Educated in Moscow, Mr. Dashnyam studied economics and philosophy. He was one of the ideological leaders of the pro-democracy movement which brought about a peaceful revolution in Mongolia in 1990, worked as Vice-Speaker of Ardyn Ikh Khural (Parliament) in 1990-1992, and in 2001 ran for the presidency as the Civil Will Party candidate. He has published more than 30 books of poetry, fiction, and scholarship, most recently *Hero Esukhei* (2003, about Genghis Khan's father). His poems and stories have been included in a collection of the best contemporary Mongolian Literature. His work has been translated into Russian, English, French, Arabic, Chinese, Bulgarian, and Kazakh.

**Gintaras GRAJAUSKAS** (poet, journalist, editor; Lithuania, b. 1966, Marijampole) won the Z. Gele Prize for best first book of poems with *Tatuiruote* (*Tattoo*, 1993). Another collection of his, *Kauline dudele* (*Bone Pipe*, 1999), won both the Spring of Poetry and the Simonaityte Awards. His works have been translated into English, German, and Polish, among other languages. In addition to writing poetry, Mr. Grajauskas works as a journalist and editor of *Klaipeda*, a widely-read daily newspaper in the city of Klaipeda and the western part of Lithuania. He is responsible for the selection of literary works and promotion of young Lithuanian writers featured in *Klaipeda's* monthly literary supplement "Gintaro Lasai" (Drops of Amber). Since 2000, he has organized the annual poetry festival *Placdarvas* (*Bridgehead*) in Klaipeda. Having studied jazz at the State Conservatoire in Klaipeda, he also sings and plays the bass guitar in the band *Rokfeleriai*.

**Matthias GÖRITZ** (poet, b.1969, Hamburg, Germany) has taught at universities in Germany as well as at Bard College in New York. A recipient of numerous fellowships, he has spent time in several European cities as well as New York and Chicago. His first book of poems, *Loops*, was published in 2001 in German and he has contributed prose



and poetry to many magazines, anthologies and the major German newspapers *Süddeutsche Zeitung* and *Die Welt*. He co-translated (with Chong Heyong) a book by the Korean writer Kim Kwang Kyu, entitled *The Depth of the Shell* and does frequent translations from the English for the German journal, *Sprache im technischen Zeitalter*, where he is also a contributing editor.

**Ly HOANG Ly** (poet, visual artist; Vietnam, b. 1975, Hanoi) won the First Prize at the New Pens Poetry contest in 1996 and was elected Poet of the Year by the readers of *Nguoi Lao Dong (Worker) Newspaper* in 1999. Her poems have been widely anthologized, translated into French and English, and published in various magazines and newspapers in Vietnam. Her first book of poetry, *White Grass*, came out in 1999; her second and most recent book, *The Night Is Flowing towards the Sky*, will appear soon this year. Besides writing poetry, she has also done a translation of Jack London's *The Call of the Wild* (1995). Ms. Ly Hoang Ly paints and works in installation & performance art as well. She has been teaching young children how to paint since 1997, and has held exhibits of her work and participated in a number of art festivals in Asia as well as the U.S.

**JEONG Han Yong** (poet, critic, translator; South Korea, b. 1958, Choongju) is an editor for two of the most influential literary magazines in Korea: *Spirit & Expression* and *People Loving Poetry*. The first magazine includes a variety of genres, while the latter is dedicated solely to poetry. He also manages PoemCafe ([www.poemcafe.com](http://www.poemcafe.com)), a global network of poets which began in 2000 and now has more than 90 members worldwide. Mr. Jeong majored in modern Korean poetry, and received his Ph.D. at Kyeonghee University in Seoul. He has published three books of poems: *The Appointment with a Stranger* (1990), *Sad Santa Fe* (1994), and *Nana Stories* (1999). He also has a collection of essays titled *Two Reports about Hell* (1995). His next collection of poems will be out in late 2003.

**Ethan W. KIM (KIM Won-Chung)** (translator, poet; Korea, b. 1959, Changhung) is an associate professor of English Literature at Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, Korea. He has received his Ph. D. in English from University of Iowa (1993) and written widely about contemporary American poets, especially ecopoets such as Gary Snyder, Wendell Berry, and A.R. Ammons. He is vice-president of ASLE Korea (Association for the Study of Literature and Environment) and editor of *Literature and Environment*. He was awarded several Korean Literature Translation Institute grants, as well as a Daesan Foundation Award, and has translated more than six books of Korean poetry, including *Heart's Agony* (White Pine Press, 1998), *Flowers in the Toilet Bowl* (Homa & Sekey, Fall, 2003), and *Trees of the World* (Kegan Paul International, forthcoming). Presently he and Christopher Merrill are translating the works of Jiwoo Hwang (IWP '00), and preparing an anthology of contemporary Korean poetry.

**KIM Young-Ha** (fiction writer; South Korea, b. 1968, Seoul) published his debut novel *Nanen nareul pagiohal gweolliga itda (I Have a Right to Destroy Myself)* in 1996. The novel was translated into the French as *La mort a demi-mots* (Editions Philippe Picquier,

1998). A prolific writer, he has written more than seven books as well as a significant number of essays and film reviews. In 1999, he won the 44th Contemporary Literature Prize for the novel *Dangsine Namu* (*Your Tree*, 1999). He is also the host of a daily radio show on books and authors.

**Yevgeniya KONONENKO** (pen name of Yevgeniya Myagka) (poet, fiction writer, Ukraine, b. 1959, Kiev) is a well-known Ukrainian poet and fiction writer who has published a book of poetry, two novels, and a number of short stories. She has received several prestigious literary awards, including first prize at the Granoslov Awards for her book of poetry *First Snow Waltz* (1997), and the Suchasnist award for her novel *Imitation* (2001). She is now working on a new novel and a collection of short stories.

**MAUNG Swan Yi** (pen name of U Win Pe) (poet, fiction writer, scholar; Burma, b. 1939, Kansint) won the National Literary Prize in 1964 for his collection of poetry, *Poems of Red and Blue* (1964). A well-known scholar and writer, his poems, short stories, book reviews, and articles on Mayanma (Burmese) literature and art have appeared in various journals, magazines, and newspapers since 1958, often under the pen name Maung Swan Yi. He has lectured on literature at schools, town halls, churches, and monasteries, since 1962 and has also devoted himself to the preserving of Burmese culture, conducting extensive field research on Burmese folklore and folk music.

**Minae MIZUMURA** (novelist; Japan, b. 1951, Tokyo) moved to the US when she was twelve, then studied French literature at Yale but later returned to Japan to dedicate herself to fiction writing. She is now a prominent member of Japan's literary establishment. All her novels pay homage to Japanese literary tradition while breaking new ground. *Zoku Meian* (*Light and Darkness Continued*, 1990) finished the unfinished final novel of Natsume Soseki, a figure revered as the greatest modern novelist in Japan. *Shishosetsu from left to right* (*I-Novel from left to right*, 1995) made use of a bilingual text and horizontal print to question the notion of a Japanese national literature. Her most recent novel, *Honkaku Shosetsu* (*A Real Novel*, 2002), is a retelling of Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* in postwar Japan, in which Heathcliff is born to a Japanese woman raped by a Chinese bandit. Her novels have received critical acclaim and awards including the distinguished Yomiuri Literature Award. She has taught at Princeton, the University of Michigan and Stanford.

**Gregory NORMINTON** (novelist; England, b. 1976, Ascot) is the author of *The Ship of Fools* (2002, Sceptre), which he also helped translate into French. He holds a BA from Oxford University in English Language and Literature as well as an acting degree from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. His awards include a Writer's Award from the Arts Council of England in 2003, and a BBC "Making Waves" award at the Brighton Festival in 2000. He has acted on television and written plays for radio. His new novel, *Arts and Wonders*, will be published in 2004.

**Barolong SEBONI** (poet, columnist; Botswana, b. 1957) attended secondary school in London and was a poet-in-residence at the Scottish Poetry Library. Upon returning to

Botswana, he co-founded the Writers' Association of Botswana and is now a senior lecturer and director of the writers' workshop at the University of Botswana. Besides publishing poetry in various journals and newspapers, Mr. Seboni also writes a satirical weekly newspaper column, "In the Nitty Gritty," and his scripts for the radio soap opera on HIV/AIDS ("Makgabaneng") also enjoy widespread popularity.

**Marcin SENDECKI** (poet; Poland, b. 1967, Gdansk) belongs to the group of Polish poets that gathered around the counter-culture quarterly *brulion* ("rough draft") and which is sometimes referred to as "The New Barbarians" (or as the "O'Haraists," due to the influence of Frank O'Hara and other New York School poets). Mr. Sendeki has written four books of poetry, most recently, *Opisy przyrody* (*Descriptions of Nature*, 2002) and *Szkoci Dol* (*Scottish Pit*, 2002). He co-edited the anthology of poetry, *Długie pożegnanie. Tribute to Raymond Chandler* (*The Long Good-bye. Tribute to Raymond Chandler*, 1997). He has been translated into numerous languages and has published books of selected poems in German and Portuguese. In the U.S., he was included in the *Chicago Review's* New Polish Writing. He currently works for *Przekroj*, a weekly cultural and social magazine.

**Mirsad SIJARIĆ** (poet, b. 1970 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina) received a degree in history from Sarajevo University, as well a post-graduate degree in archaeology from the University in Zagreb, Croatia. He currently works as an archaeologist at Sarajevo's National Museum, specializing in Bosnia's Mediaeval period. His first book of poems, *Orao* (*The Eagle*, 1995) came out of his experience as a front-line defender of Sarajevo in the Bosnian army, and was published as part of a series entitled, "Sarajevo under the Siege," which presented various works that took shape during the siege from 1992 to 1995. His work has appeared in several anthologies of Bosnian Poetry, including *Scar on the Stone* (ed. Chris Agee, 1998). Mr. Sijarić is currently working on a novel and a screenplay.

**Gábor T. SZÁNTÓ** (poet and fiction writer; Hungary; b. 1966, Budapest) belongs to the third generation of postwar Jewish Hungarian writers, who came of age after the period of silence about Jewishness that characterized the experience of their parents' generation. Szántó has a degree in political science and jurisprudence from Eötvös Loránd University and is editor in chief of the Jewish cultural monthly *Szombat*, founded in 1989. He published his first volume of stories, *A tizedik ember* (*The tenth man*), in 1995. A volume of two novellas, *Mószér* (*The Informer*) appeared in 1997 and appeared in German as *In Schuld verstrickt* (1999). Szántó has also published poetry and essays and a novel: *Keleti pályadvar, végállomás* (*Eastern station, last stop*). His short stories and essays have been translated in Italian, English, and German.

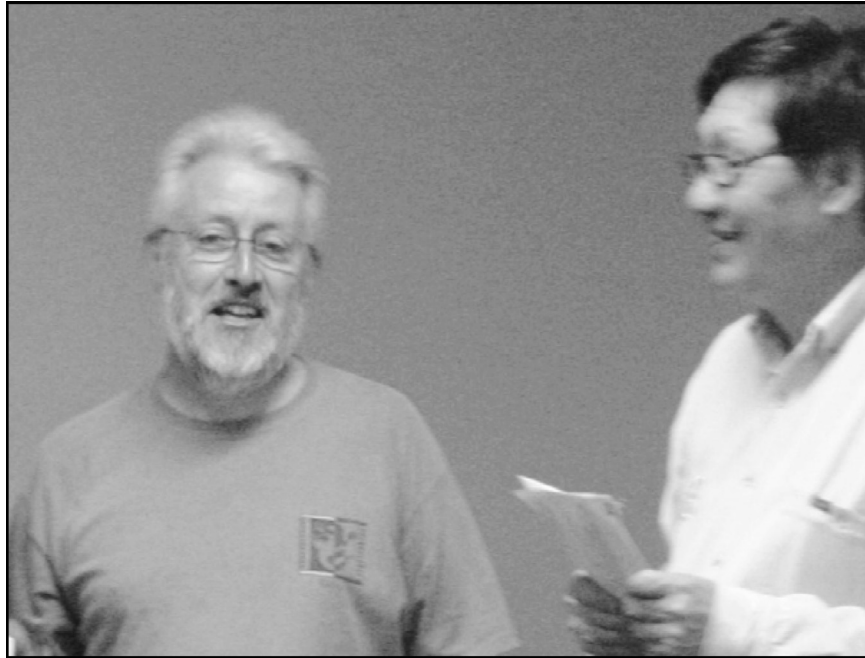
**Paddy WOODWORTH** (non-fiction writer; Ireland, b. 1951, Bray) has written extensively for the *Irish Times*, where he was a staff journalist from 1988 to 2002, first as arts editor (for six years) and later as an editor and contributor on the foreign desk. He has worked for numerous other publications as well as in radio and television. His first full-length book, *Dirty War, Clean Hands* (Cork University Press, 2001; Yale University

Press, 2003), is a study of the consequences, for contemporary Spanish democracy, of the use of state terrorist methods to combat the terrorism of the Basque separatist group ETA. It was a best-seller in Ireland and received glowing reviews internationally by publications ranging from *Time* magazine to the *Times Literary Supplement*. He is currently working freelance on three book projects: images of migratory birds in human culture; a comparison of the Basque and Northern Irish conflicts; and a novel based in the Basque Country.

**YAN Li** (painter, poet, fiction writer; China, b. 1954, Beijing) was a member of a group of artists known as “The Stars,” famous for their daring exhibition of works tinged with abstraction and surrealism; as a writer, he is identified with the Misty Poets, a group that gained notice in the late 70s for their subversion of social realism via personal emotions and private imagery. In 1987, he founded *Yi-Hang (First Line)* in New York, a quarterly journal that features the works of contemporary Chinese poets as well as translations of American poems. His work has been translated into French, Italian, English, Swedish, Korean and German. He has held many exhibitions and published numerous books, most recently a novel titled *Meet with 9.11* (Literature & Art Press, Shanghai, 2002).

**YU Hua** (novelist; China, b. 1960, Hangzhou) published his first book in 1984, *Shibasui Chumen Yuanxing (Leaving Home at Eighteen)* which was followed by several more novels and collections of short stories and essays, most notably, *Huo Zhe (To Live)*, which was awarded the Grinzane Cavour Award in Italy in 1998 and made into a film by renowned director Zhang Yimou. In turn, the film won the Grand Jury Prize and Best Actor at the Cannes Film Festival in 1994. Trained as a dentist, Yu Hua left the profession after five years to become a writer. His works have been translated into numerous languages, and *To Live* (Random House, trans. Michael Berry) appeared in English in August, 2003, followed by *Chronicle of a Blood Merchant* (Pantheon, trans. Andrew F. Jones) in November, 2003. Considered innovative and controversial, his fictions place him in the forefront of China’s current literary scene.





*Paddy Woodworth and L. Dashnyman  
at the Landscape and Literature Conference*

### **Writers' Individual Activities**

#### **✧Shimon ADAF**

##### **At the University of Iowa**

- Sept. 8 Presentation, International Literature Today
- Sept. 10 Panel, "America Abroad," Iowa City Public Library
- Sept. 17 Panel, "Literature and the Other Arts," Iowa City Public Library
- Oct. 19 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore

##### **At other institutions**

- Sept. 12 Presentation, Central Academy, Des Moines, IA
- Oct. 24 Poetry reading, Agudas Achim Temple, Iowa City
- Nov. 8 Panel, Chicago Humanities Festival

#### **✧Brit BILDØEN**

##### **At the University of Iowa**

- Oct. 6 Presentation, International Literature Today
- Oct. 24 Reading, Shambaugh House

**At other institutions**

- Sept. 28 Reading, Ruminator Books, St. Paul, MN  
 Oct. 12 Reading, Paul Engle Center, Cedar Rapids, IA  
 Nov. 8 Panel, "Exchange Rates," Chicago Humanities Festival, Chicago, IL

**✧Agata BIELIK-ROBSON****At the University of Iowa**

- Sept. 3 Panel, "Fantasy and Reality," Iowa City Public Library  
 Oct 3 Janusz Bardach Memorial Reading, Shambaugh House  
 Oct. 18 Lecture, Empathy Conference  
 Oct. 20 Presentation, International Literature Today

**Other Institutions**

- Sept. 11 Panel, "America Abroad," Drake University, Des Moines, IA  
 Sept. 12 Presentation, Central Academy, Des Moines, IA  
 Oct. 24 Lecture, Alternative High School, Iowa City  
 Nov. 8 Panel, "Exchange Rates," Chicago Humanities Festival, Chicago, IL  
 Nov. 12 Reading (w/ Paddy Woodworth), Rowayton (CT)

**✧Leopoldo BRIZUELA****At the University of Iowa**

- Sept. 3 Panel, "Fantasy and Reality," Iowa City Public Library  
 Sept. 15 Presentation, International Literature Today  
 Sept. 18 Lecture, African Literature Today class, Department of English  
 Sept. 21 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore  
 Sept. 24 Panel, "Writers as Readers," Iowa City Public Library  
 Oct. 7 Reading, Senior College  
 Oct. 21 Reading (in Spanish), with Alejandra Costamagna, Dept. of Spanish, UI  
 Oct. 28 Reading, Writers' Workshop  
 Oct. 31 Presentation, Translation Workshop, Shambaugh House

**At other institutions**

- Sept. 12 Lecture, Central Academy, Des Moines  
 Oct. 3 Interview, *Live from the Java House*, with Ben Kieffer, WSUI  
 Oct. 3 Lectures on Argentine literature, West High School, Iowa City  
 and Prairie High School, Cedar Rapids  
 Oct. 12 Reading, Paul Engle Center, Cedar Rapids, IA  
 Nov. 11 Panel, "Exchange Rates," Chicago Humanities Festival, Chicago, IL  
 Nov. 14 Reading, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

### ✧Denisa COMANESCU

#### **At the University of Iowa**

- Sept. 5     Presentation, Translation Workshop, Shambaugh House
- Sept. 14    Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- Sept. 15    Collaboration w/ Stefon Harris Quartet, Wheel Room, IMU
- Oct. 13     Presentation, International Literature Today
- Oct. 21     Reading and Discussion, Senior College
- Oct. 22     Panel, "Literary Translation, Literary Criticism," Iowa City Public Library
- Oct. 28     Interview with Mike Standaert, Shambaugh House

#### **At other institutions**

- Sept. 7     Reading, Midwest Writing Center, Rock Island, IA
- Oct. 7      Panel, "Writing and Politics," Coe College, Cedar Rapids, IA
- Nov. 11    Reading, University of Illinois, Chicago

### ✧Alejandra COSTAMAGNA

#### **At the University of Iowa**

- Sept. 17    Presentation, International Literature Today
- Sept. 17    Panel, "Literature & Other Arts," Iowa City Public Library
- Sept. 26    Reading, Chile Night, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- Oct. 10     Presentation, Shambaugh House Translation Workshop
- Oct. 15     Panel, "Why I Write What I Write," Iowa City Public Library
- Oct. 20     Interview, KRUI, Iowa Memorial Union
- Oct. 22     Reading (in Spanish) w/ Leopoldo Brizuela, Department of Spanish, UI

#### **At other institutions**

- Oct. 5      Reading, Midwest Writing Center, Rock Island, IL
- Oct. 27     Reading and Discussion, Department of Spanish, Grinnell College
- Oct. 29     Speech, Iowa City Foreign Relations Council
- Nov. 6      Reading, African American Cultural Center, University of Illinois, Chicago

### ✧Luvsandamba DASHNYAM

#### **At the University of Iowa**

- Sept. 5     Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- Sept.17    Panel, "Literature & Other Arts" Iowa City Public Library
- Sept. 22    Presentation, International Literature Today
- Oct. 8      Panel, "Landscape & Literature," Iowa City Public Library
- Oct. 11     Presentation, Landscape & Literature Conference, IMU

Oct. 15 Panel, "Why I Write What I Write," Iowa City Public Library

**At other institutions**

Sept. 28 Reading, Ruminator Books, St. Paul, MN

**✧Gintaras GRAJAUSKAS**

**At the University of Iowa**

Sept. 17 Panel, "Literature & Other Arts," Iowa City Public Library

Sept. 19 Collaboration w/ Stefon Harris Quartet, Wheel Room, Iowa Memorial Union

Sept. 24 Panel, "Writers as Readers," Iowa City Public Library

Oct. 13 Reading, Janusz Bardach Memorial Reading, Shambaugh House

**At other institutions**

Sept. 6 Reading, The Lithuanian-American Organization Santara-Sviesa, Chicago, IL

Nov. 6 Reading, Department of Slavic and Baltic Languages, U Illinois, Chicago

**✧Matthias GÖRITZ**

**At the University of Iowa**

Sept. 8 Presentation, International Literature Today

Sept. 19 Collaboration w/ Stefon Harris Quartet, Wheel Room, Iowa Memorial Union

Sept. 21 Reading, Prairie Light Bookstore

Oct. 8 Panel, "Landscape & Literature," Iowa City Public Library

Oct. 10 Lecture, Department. of Cinema and Comparative Literature, UI

Oct. 16 Reading, Department of German, UI

Oct. 18 Lecture, Empathy Conference

Oct. 18 Performance at *Global Express*

**At other institutions**

Sept. 11 Panel, "America Abroad," Drake University, Des Moines, IA

Sept. 12 Presentation, Central Academy, Des Moines, IA

Nov. 8 Panel, "Exchange Rates," Chicago Humanities Festival, Chicago, IL

**✧HOANG Ly**

**At the University of Iowa**

Sept. 3 Panel, "Fantasy and Reality," Iowa City Public Library

Sept. 5 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series

Sept. 19 Collaboration w/ Stefon Harris Quartet, Wheel Room, Iowa Memorial Union



- Oct. 18 Performance at *Global Express*
- Oct. 19 Presentation, Translation Workshop, Shambaugh House
- Oct. 27 Presentation, International Literature Today

**At other institutions**

- Sept. 12 Presentation, Central Academy, Des Moines, IA
- Oct. 5 Presentation of poetry and video work, Edgewater Beach Café, Chicago, IL
- Oct. 7 Presentation of poetry and video work, Interdisciplinary Art Department, Columbia College, Chicago, IL
- Nov. 11 Reading, University of Illinois, Chicago

**✧JEONG Han Yong**

**At the University of Iowa**

- Sept. 3 Panel, "Fantasy and Reality," Iowa City Public Library
- Sept. 12 Presentation, Central Academy, Des Moines, IA
- Sept. 19 Collaboration w/ Stefon Harris Quartet, Wheel Room, Iowa Memorial Union
- Sept. 22 Presentation, International Literature Today
- Sept. 24 Panel, "Writers as Readers or Readers as Writers," Iowa City Public Library
- Oct. 5 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore

**At other institutions**

- Oct. 12 Reading, Paul Engle Center, Cedar Rapids, IA

**✧Ethan W. KIM**

**At the University of Iowa**

- Sept. 19 Collaboration w/ Stefon Harris Quartet, Wheel Room, Iowa Memorial Union
- Sept. 22 Presentation, International Literature Today
- Oct. 8 Panel, "Landscape and Literature," Iowa City Public Library
- Oct. 15 Reading, w/Hwang Suk-Young and Hwang Ji-Woo, Biology Bldg East
- Oct. 22 Panel, "Literary Translation, Literary Criticism," Iowa City Public Library

**✧KIM Young-Ha**

**At the University of Iowa**

- Sept. 14 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- Sept. 22 Presentation, International Literature Today
- Oct. 18 Performance at *Global Express*

Oct. 29 Panel, "Why I Write What I Write," Iowa City Public Library

**At other institutions**

Sept. 11 Panel "America Abroad" Drake University, Des Moines, IA  
 Sept. 12 Presentation, Central Academy, Des Moines, IA  
 Oct. 20 Presentation and Discussion, Columbia University, New York, NY  
 Nov. 4 Lecture on Korean-U.S. Relations, Iowa State University, Ames, IA  
 Nov. 5 Reading, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

**✧Yevgeniya KONONENKO**

**At the University of Iowa**

Sept. 10 Panel, "America Abroad," Iowa City Public Library  
 Oct. 5 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore  
 Oct. 18 Speech, Empathy Conference, IMU  
 Oct. 21 Reading, Senior College  
 Oct. 24 Reading and Discussion, Shambaugh House Translation Workshop  
 Oct. 29 Panel, "Why I Write What I Write," Iowa City Public Library

**At other institutions**

Sept. 12 Presentation, Central Academy, Des Moines, IA

**✧MAUNG Swan Yi**

**At the University of Iowa**

Sept. 5 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series  
 Sept. 20 Interview, Voice of America Broadcasting Service  
 Sept. 27 Phone Interview, Moemakha Radio, San Francisco  
 Oct. 4 Phone Interview, Moemakha Radio, San Francisco  
 Oct. 13 Presentation, International Literature Today  
 Oct. 22 Panel, "Literary Translation, Literary Criticism," Iowa City Public Library  
 Oct. 26 Interview with Michael Standaert for *Hawaii Magazine*

**At other institutions**

Sept. 12 Lecture, Central Academy, Des Moines, IA  
 Sept. 20 Lecture, Burmese American Democratic Alliance, San Francisco, CA  
 Sept. 21 Presentation, Burmese American Democratic Alliance & National League for Democracy, Los Angeles, CA  
 Sept. 22 Interview, Burma Today Media, New York, NY  
 Sept. 25 Interview, Institute of International Education, New York, NY  
 Oct. 7 Panel, "Writing and Politics," Coe College, Cedar Rapids, IA  
 Nov.8-27 Residency at KHN Center for the Arts, Nebraska City, NE

### ✧Minae MIZUMURA

#### **At the University of Iowa**

- Oct. 9 Interview with Michael Standaert for *Far Eastern Economic Review*
- Oct. 10 Interview, *Live form the Java House*, with Ben Kieffer, WSUI
- Oct. 13 Presentation, International Literature Today
- Oct. 17 Presentation, Translation Workshop, Shambaugh House
- Oct. 19 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- Oct. 20 Presentation, Asian Literature Today, Dept.of Asian Languages and Literatures
- Oct. 22 Panel, "Literary Translation, Literary Criticism," Iowa City Public Library
- Oct. 24 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- Oct. 29 Panel, "Why I Write What I Write," Iowa City Public Library

#### **At other institutions**

- Sept. 28 Reading, Ruminator Books, St. Paul, MN
- Oct. 21 Reading and Discussion, Senior College, Iowa City

### ✧Gregory NORMINTON

#### **At the University of Iowa**

- Aug. 28 Interview for *Talk of Iowa*, WSUI
- Sept. 10 Panel "America Abroad," Iowa City Public Library
- Sept. 10 Presentation, Department of English, UI
- Sept. 26 Interview, for *Know the Score*, with Joan Kjaer, KSUI
- Oct. 6 Interview for *Daily Iowan*, with Sara Conrad
- Oct. 8 Panel, "Landscape and Literature," Iowa City Public Library
- Oct. 10 Lecture, Alternative High School
- Oct. 11 Talk, Landscape & Literature Conference
- Oct. 14 Reading, Senior College
- Oct. 16 Presentation, Empathy Conference, IMU
- Oct. 18 Performance at *Global Express*
- Oct. 26 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- Oct. 27 Presentation, International Literature Today

#### **At other institutions**

- Sept. 7 Reading, Midwest Writing Center, Rock Island, IL
- Sept. 12 Presentation, Central Academy, Des Moines, IA

### **✧Barolong SEBONI**

#### **At the University of Iowa**

- Sept. 15 Lecture, Senior High Alternative Center
- Sept. 19 Collaboration w/ Stefon Harris Quartet, Wheel Room, Iowa Memorial Union
- Oct. 6 Class presentation on current African literature, Department of English
- Oct. 13 Presentation, International Literature Today
- Oct. 15 Panel, "Why I Write What I Write," Iowa City Public Library
- Oct. 16 Poetry workshop, Longfellow Elementary, Iowa City
- Oct. 24 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- Oct. 25 Presentation, Translation Workshop, Shambaugh House

#### **At other institutions**

- Sept. 12 Presentation, Central Academy, Des Moines, IA
- Oct. 22 Reading and Discussion, Loras College, Dubuque, IA
- Oct. 25 Presentation, African Studies/African Literature Department, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
- Oct. 30 Participant, African Studies Association Conference, Boston MA
- Nov. 2 Panel, "Exchange Rates," Chicago Humanities Festival, Chicago, IL

### **✧Marcin SENDECKI**

#### **At the University of Iowa**

- Sept. 5 Discussion, Translation Workshop, Shambaugh House
- Sept. 7 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- Sept. 8 Presentation, International Literature Today
- Sept. 19 Collaboration w/ Stefon Harris Quartet, Wheel Room, Iowa Memorial Union
- Sept. 24 Panel, "Writers as Readers," Iowa City Public Library
- Oct. 11 Reading, Empathy Conference, IMU

#### **At other institutions**

- Sept. 12 2 Presentations, Central Academy, Des Moines, IA
- Sept. 24 Lecture, Senior High Alternative Center
- Oct. 10 Reading, Midwest Writing Center, Rock Island, IL
- Oct. 7 Panel, "Writing and Politics," Coe College, Cedar Rapids, IA
- Oct. 22 Reading w/ Andrew Zawacki and Matthew Zapruder, Danny's Poetry Reading Series, Chicago, IL
- Nov.19 Reading and Presentation, International Studies Program, Northwestern High School, Hyattsville, MD

### ✧Mirsad SIJARIĆ

#### **At the University of Iowa**

- Oct. 26 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore  
 Oct. 29 Panel, "Why I Write What I Write," Iowa City Public Library

#### **At other institutions**

- Nov. 11 Panel, "Exchange Rates," Chicago Humanities Festival, Chicago, IL

### ✧Gábor T. SZÁNTÓ

#### **At the University of Iowa**

- Sept. 8 Presentation, International Literature Today  
 Oct. 3 Janusz Bardach Memorial Reading, Shambaugh House  
 Oct. 15 Panel, "Why I Write," Iowa City Public Library

#### **At other institutions**

- Oct. 6 Reading, University of Illinois, Chicago  
 Oct. 7 Panel, "Writing and Politics," Coe College, Cedar Rapids, IA

### ✧Paddy WOODWORTH

#### **At the University of Iowa**

- Sept. 7 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore  
 Sept. 15 Presentation, International Literature Today  
 Sept. 17 Interview, *Know the Score*, with Joan Kjaer, WSUI  
 Oct. 6, 8 Lectures at School of Journalism, UI  
 Oct. 8 Panel, "Landscape and Literature," Iowa City Public Library  
 Oct. 10 *Live from the Java House*, interview with Ben Kieffer, WSUI  
 Oct. 13 Lecture, "International Mondays," International Programs, UI  
 Nov. 2 Interview, Premiere of *Week's End* show, with Gayane Torosian, KSUI  
 Nov. 5 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore

#### **At other institutions**

- Sept. 11 Panel, "America Abroad," Drake University, Des Moines, IA  
 Sept. 12 2 Lectures, Central Academy, Des Moines, IA  
 Oct. 3 Presentation, Alternative High School, Iowa City, IA  
 Oct. 9 Lecture, Foreign Relations Council, Iowa City  
 Nov. 4 Discussion, Senior Citizens Books Class, Iowa City

- Nov. 4     Lecture, From the Outside Festival, Iowa State University, Ames, IA
- Nov. 5     Seminar, Departments of English and Spanish, Iowa State, Ames, IA
- Nov. 10    Lecture, Georgia College and State University, Milledgeville, G
- Nov. 11    Lecture, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington D.C.
- Nov. 12    Reading (w/ Agata Bielik-Robson), Rowayton (CT)
- Nov. 18    Interview, Nebraska City, NE
- Nov. 19    Lecture, Rotary Club, Nebraska City, NE

### **✧YAN Li**

#### **At the University of Iowa**

- Sept. 5     Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- Sept. 10    Panel, "America Abroad," Iowa City Public Library
- Sept. 17    Panel, "Literature & Other Arts," Iowa City Public Library
- Sept. 25    Reading and Discussion, Department of Asian Languages and Literatures, UI
- Oct. 6      Lecture, Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, UI
- Oct. 20     Presentation, International Literature Today
- Oct. 3-25   Exhibition of Paintings, UI Art Museum
- Oct. 31     Presentation, Translation Workshop, Shambaugh House

#### **At other institutions**

- Sept. 12    Presentation, Central Academy, Des Moines, IA
- Sept. 13    Reading, Des Moines Area Community College, Des Moines, IA
- Sept. 29    Reading, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN
- Oct. 7      Panel, "Literature and Politics," Coe College, Cedar Rapids
- Oct. 18    Reading, Urbandale Public Library, Des Moines, IA
- Nov. 11    Reading, Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA
- Nov. 12    Reading, Multnomah County Library, Portland, OR
- Nov. 13    Presentation, Whitman College Art Department, Walla Walla, WA
- Nov. 13    Reading, Whitman College, Walla Walla, WA
- Nov. 19    Reading and Discussion, The Hudson Valley Writers' Center, NY
- Nov. 20    Reading, "Human Rights in China," New York, NY
- Nov. 24    Reading, Trump Art Club, New York, NY

### **✧YU Hua**

#### **At the University of Iowa**

- Oct. 29     Panel, "Why I Write What I Write," Iowa City Public Library
- Oct. 29     Screening and discussion of *To Live*, Des Moines Arts Center

**At other institutions:**

Nov 2     Reading and screening of *To Live*, Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN  
Nov 4     Reading, University of Chicago, IL  
Nov 17    Reading, Yale University, New Haven, CT  
Dec 3     Reading, University of California, Berkeley, CA

**2004**

March 4   Reading, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA

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*Yu Hua and his translator Nancy Tsai*

## The Fourth Annual IWP Festival

### *Landscape and Literature*

10<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> October, 2003

The International Writing Program's Annual Festival honors the work and legacy of Program co-founder Paul Engle. This year, for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival—to be held the weekend of October 12, which Governor Tom Vilsack set aside as Paul Engle Day—we invite writers, scholars, environmental activists, farmers, and other community members to investigate that mysterious space where imagination and the land converge.

Through nature hikes, panel discussions, student presentations, slide shows, poetry readings, lectures and films, “Landscape and Literature” will explore the question and spirit of place, how memory and imagination transform a terrain, how settings give rise to stories (and histories), and how art and nature intersect. Giving the Paul Engle Memorial Lecture will be Scott Russell Sanders, a nationally known writer of novels, short stories, children's literature, and nonfiction, and Distinguished Professor of English and Creative Writing at Indiana University. He will give a reading, discuss how place is constructed and practiced in the Midwest, and reflect on how place has informed his own works.

Throughout the weekend, we will look to the surrounding farmland, prairie, and wilderness as a kind of “test case,” a specific natural place that we can discuss as a community. The heart of American literature has always felt the great psychological weight of the prairie, this wide-open terrain that Abraham Lincoln called “the great interior region,” a realm once disparaged as the Great American Desert—which is to say, no place at all. The IWP Festival will be looking to re-invoke the ancient and modern voices of the prairie, to trace that forgotten language in all of its grammars and etymologies, to ask what it means to write a literature of place and, in particular, how the Iowa landscape shapes our collective experience and imagination. Spurring the discussion will be panels of regional writers, environmentalists, and naturalists; poetry readings from James Galvin, Michael Carey, and others; field trips into nature . . .

. . . and across the city, too, for it is the landscape many of us know best, the space where our imaginations dwell day-to-day. James Throgmorton will lead “Storytelling and Urban Engagement,” a tour of some local neighborhoods. We'll read a chapter or two of the city's archeology, and learn how local youth are “re-imagining” the city's future.

And throughout the Festival, we'll be reaching far afield, summoning distant places to come closer—through nature photography and slideshows, landscape paintings, a tour of work by Chris Cozier (a Trinidad sculptor and filmmaker in residence this fall at the UI Arts Program), and readings from four of the international writers at the 2003 IWP, each of whom will map the meeting of their own distant geographies with literary traditions both strange and familiar.

Join us for a weekend of nature and art—windows to the self, which reveal a sense of human identity as disparate and divided, as universal and shared, as the earth itself.



## Friday 10 October

*Afternoon: all events at IMU, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor.*

- 1:00- 2:00      “Little Things: Writing on the Prairie”:  
 Illinois Rm      Christopher Merrill, Director, International Writing Program, UI  
                          “Paul Engle: Reading and Remembering”: Robert Dana, Poet, N. Carolina
- 2:10- 3:10      “Mapping Racial Boundaries in Antebellum St. Louis”:  
 Penn St. Rm.    Barbara Mooney, Assistant Prof. of Art and Art History, UI
- 3:20- 5:30      “Agriculture, Farming, and Rural Communities: Social, Spiritual, and  
 Literary Perspectives”:  
                          CeCe Arnold, National Rural Catholic Rural Life Conference  
                          Susan Zacharakis-Jutz, ZJ Farms, Solon, Iowa  
                          Hugh Espey, Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement  
                          Larry Ginter, Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement  
                          Fred Kirchenmann, Director, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture,  
                          Iowa State U, Ames  
                          Mary Swander, Prof. of English, Iowa State U.  
                          Michael Carey, Poet, Farmer, Farrugut, Iowa

*Evening: North Room, IMU.*

- 7:00- 9:00      “Writing from the Region,” A Literary Reading:  
                          Mary Swander, Prof. of English, Iowa State U  
                          Michael Carey, Poet, Farmer, Farrugut, Iowa  
                          Ray Young Bear, Poet, Fiction Writer, Tama, Iowa

## Saturday 11 October

*Morning: meet in front the south entrance of the IMU.*

- 9:00- 11:30      Bus tour of Iowa City neighborhoods: “Story Telling in the Urban  
                          Environment,” Jim Throgmorton, Associate Prof. of Urban and Regional  
                          Planning, Univ. of Iowa Planning, UI

*Afternoon: all events at IMU, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor (except where noted).*

- 12:45- 1:30      “Plain Pictures Redux: Claiming the Aesthetics of Absence”:  
 Penn St. Rm.    Joni Kinsey, Associate Prof. of Art and Art History, UI

- 1:00- 1:50 International Writing Program Talk:  
Michigan Rm. "Egdon and the Eco-Worrier," Gregory Norminton, Fiction Writer,  
England
- 2:00- 2:50 Panel: "Writing and Publishing Iowa,"  
Illinois Rm. moderated by Tom Dean Special Asst. to the President, UI  
Tim Fay, Editor and Publisher, Wapsipinicon Press  
Winston Barclay, Asst. Director, Arts Center Relations, UI  
Jane Shuttleworth, Writer, Environmental Educ. Coordinator, Iowa  
Lakeside Laboratory
- 2:00- 4:00 Open Studio at UI Museum of Art:  
Chris Cozier, visual artist, art critic, Trinidad
- 3:00- 4:10 International Writing Program Presentations:  
Penn St. Rm. "Mongolian Landscape and Literature,"  
L. Dashnyam, President, Mongolia Knowledge University, Mongolia  
"Cracking the Shell: An Overview of Contemporary Korean Ecopoetry":  
Ethan Kim, Ass. Prof. of English Literature at Sungkyunkwan University,  
Seoul, Korea  
"An Eyeful of Water: Language, Landscape, and Form in Nand Kishore  
Acharya's *Hymns to the Desert*: A Translator's Notes":  
Anju Dhadda Misra, University of Rajasthan, India
- 4:15- 4:55 Reading:  
Illinois Rm. David Hamilton, Prof. of English, UI
- 5:00- 5:50 Reading:  
Illinois Rm. James McPherson, F. Wendell Miller Prof. of Creative Writing, UI

*Evening: Biology Building East, 101*

- 8:00- 8:50 Paul Engle Memorial Reading:  
Scott Russell Sanders, Distinguished Prof. of English and Creative  
Writing, Indiana Univ.

## Sunday 12 October

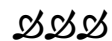
*Morning: meet in front of IMU.*

9:00- 12:00    Fieldtrip to Rochester Cemetery:  
                     Dick Baker, Prof. Emeritus of Geoscience, UI  
                     Mark Müller, Naturalist, Nature Artist, Oxford, Iowa

*Afternoon: all events at IMU, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor.*

12:45- 1:35    “German Romanticism, Caspar David Friedrich, and Landscape as Seen”:  
 Penn St. Rm.    David Klemm, Prof. of Religious Studies, UI

1:45- 2:55    Reading:  
 Illinois Rm.    James Galvin, Prof. of Creative Writing, UI  
                     Marilynne Robinson, Prof. of Creative Writing, UI



This report was prepared by the staff of the International Writing Program.  
Please visit our home page at [www.uiowa.edu/~iwp](http://www.uiowa.edu/~iwp),  
and our home at 430 North Clinton, Iowa City, IA.