



3 Introduction

4 The Coordinators

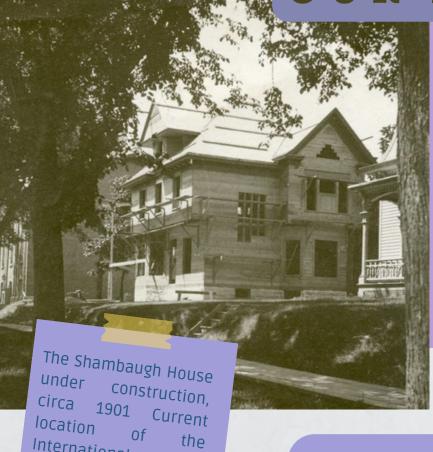
5 The Mentors

7 The Resident Assistants

10 The Participants

25 Program

UR MISSION



International Writing

Program

The Summer Institute (SI) is a two-week creative writing and cultural exchange program for participants age 18-22 from Pakistan, India, and the US.



PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

To sharpen writing skills; expand literary fluency; expand literary horizons with exposure to international literature; deepen empathy and understanding of US American, Pakistani, and Indian cultures; engage other cultures and improve crosscultural skills; consider themselves as leaders within their communities and through their writing; be exposed to and engage in an inclusive and pluralistic worldview; be able to promote peaceful conflict resolution; improve communication skills; understand the importance of the empowerment of marginalized, minority populations; learn critical inquiry regarding personal identity and the identities of others; improve skills for cultivating a life of diversity and establishing longlasting diverse communities; learn to have greater reliance on a critical internal voice and gain approaches to complicate damaging sociocultural master narratives.

The coordinators



Peter Gerlach - Program Coordinator

Peter Gerlach received his BA and MA degrees in English from Ripon College and the University of Northern Colorado, respectively. After serving in the U.S. Peace Corps in Mongolia, he earned a PhD in Cultural Foundations of Education from Syracuse University. Since 2004, he has taught university students in subjects such as composition and literature, English as a foreign language, qualitative research, and international education. In addition to the IWP, where he has been since 2018, Peter is adjunct assistant professor in the International Studies Program at The University of Iowa.

María-José Plata Flórez - Program Assistant

María José is a Colombian writer in the University of Iowa's MFA in Spanish Creative Writing program. She was one of the 35 winners of the 2014 edition of the National Short Story Contest at Colombia and she also won second place at the National Short Story Contest Caro y Cuervo. During her undergraduate at the University of Los Andes she co-founded Pigasus, a creative writing workshop that got to publish a short story collection in 2018 with an independent Colombian publishing house called Escarabajo Editorial. She has also been a popular educator and a human rights defender.



The mentors



Chandrahas Choudhury is the author of three novels: Clouds (2019), Days of My China Dragon (2019), and Arzee the Dwarf (2013), the editor of India: A Traveler's Literary Companion (2010), and most recently the author of a book of literary criticism, My Country Is Literature. He has written essays, reportage, and literary criticism for the Wall Street Journal, Condé Nast Traveler, the Washington Post, and Mint, and lectures widely on writing and the Indian novel.

Dini Parayitam has an M.F.A. from the University of Iowa's Writers' Workshop. Her short fiction has been published in The Iowa Review, Boston Review and BOMB Magazine, among other places. She was an Emerging Writing Fellow at Yale-NUS College (Singapore) and a KALAKARS (NYC) Fellow for Scriptwriting. She is working on her debut novel in Austin, Texas.



The mentors



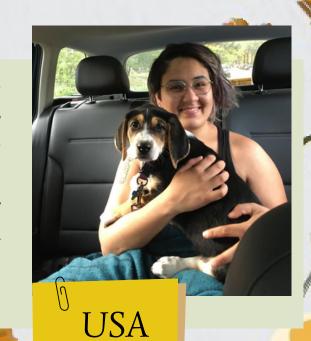
Sanam Maher is a journalist and author based in Karachi, Pakistan. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, Al Jazeera, The Caravan, and the Guardian amongst others. Her first book, A Woman Like Her: The Short Life of Qandeel Baloch, an investigation into the murder of Pakistan's first social media celebrity, was named one of the best non-fiction books of 2020 by The New York Times and The New Yorker.

The Resident Assistants



Arturo Camacho is a colombian Creative Writing in MFA in Spanish student. Spanish Teaching Assistant and now an RA for the Summer Institute who is passionate about weird literature, videogames, language, Latin American science fiction, creative mentorship, and pedagogy.

Medha Faust-Nagar is farmer, writer gardener, green grocer, and full time dog dad, who attempts to connect their worlds of agriculture, food sovereignty, poetry, and fiction by writing from her unique position of mixed Lukknavi and Iowan decent and their non-binary butch lesbian identity.

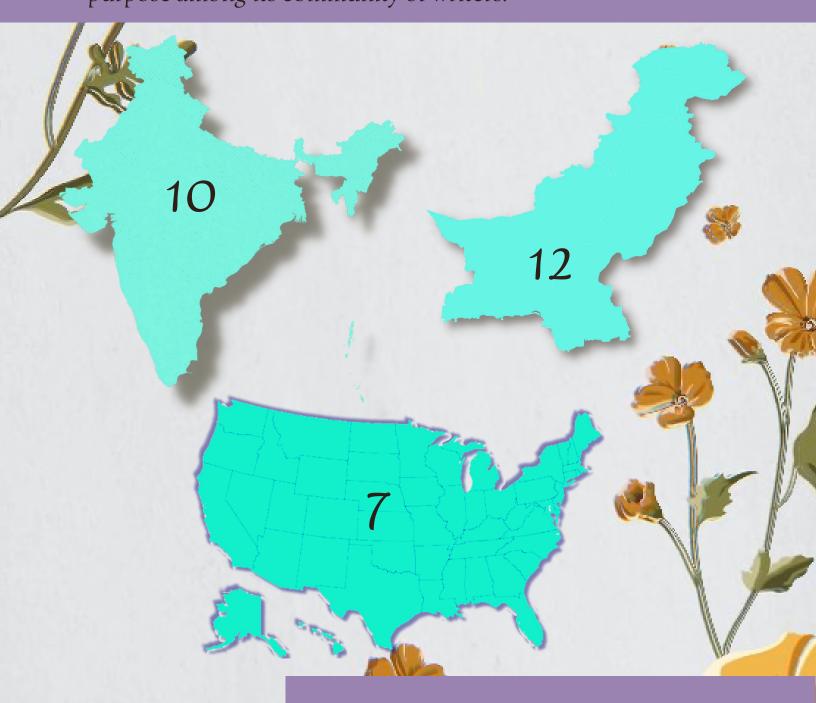


The Resident Assistants

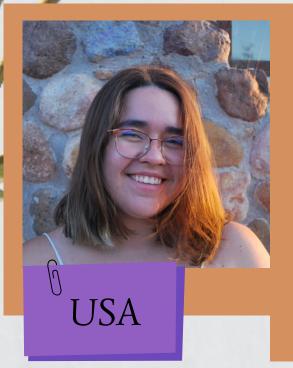


Kayl Lockett earned their MFA in Literary Translation from University of Iowa where they served as the Managing Editor for Exchanges: Tournal of Literary Translation. As a graduate assistant for the International Writing Program, Kayl taught International Literature Today to undergraduate students alongside IWP faculty, and translated and edited the work of IWP residents. Since graduating, Kayl has taught foundational English classes as an faculty Kirkwood adjunct Community College, and this summer they will return to the IWP as a Summer Institute Resident Assistant. Kayl's translations have appeared in ArabLit Quarterly and 91st Meridian, and their poetry has appeared in Taos Journal of Poetry and Art and Acta Victoriana.

Attendees take part in collaborative workshops focused on their creative work and the craft of writing, in masterclasses to expand knowledges of diverse global literatures, and in activities designed to forge new lines of understanding and shared purpose among its community of writers.



The number of participants of session 2 of the Summer Institute 2022 by country.



Laila Barcenas Meade is a graduate from Vassar College, where she majored in cognitive science and minored in English. She's currently working on a local reelection campaign for the summer, but continues to explore the possibilities of writing and learning more about craft. She's interested in children's perspectives of the world, all the places horror can be found, and the interior life of humans.

Amama Bashir is based in Kashmir. She is a literature major working towards a doctorate in literature. She enjoys experiencing all forms of writing. Her motto is to 'write what you write'. Over the years she has tried to perfect the art of thinking on paper. Her work has been published in various magazines. Her ongoing project includes compiling her parents' experiences as Kashmiri refugees in Pakistan-administered Kashmir in the form of writing.





Gulaly Behzal is a student of BS English sixth semester in Post Graduate Women College Mardan. She is a budding writer.

Ami Bhansali is a writer and filmmaker from Mumbai, they currently work as a content producer. They're an alumnus of Mithibai College, Mumbai where they majored in Mass Media.



Zain Ahmad is a resident of Lahore, Pakistan. He is a student at the National College of Arts, Lahore. He enjoys descriptive prose and creative fiction but would like to explore poetry and fiction as well. His writings revolve around the theme of man vs. himself or man vs. nature and wants to broaden the range of themes he wants to explore.



Pakistan



Robin Bissett is a writer, editor, and teaching artist from West Texas. She is a first-year fiction MFA candidate at the University of Montana, where she reads submissions for CutBank



Kritika Dixit is an incoming graduate student of Comparative Literature at the University of Edinburgh. She writes creative non-fiction, and prefers the personal essay and lyrical prose. The themes in her writing range from identity, the self and community, woundedness, joy, and the interstices between. She currently resides in Noida, India.

Amelia Evans is a poet from Iowa City, Iowa. She is a graduate of the University of Iowa where she majored in Philosophy. Her work can be found in recycling bins and paper shredders everywhere.





Javeria Hasnain is a Pakistani poet and an incoming MFA student at The New School on a Fulbright scholarship. Her poems have appeared or are forthcoming in AAWW's The Margins, Gutter magazine, Superstition Review, Substantially Unlimited, and elsewhere.

Sana Humayun is a junior year high-school student from Lahore, Pakistan. She studies at Kinnaird College for Women and has a deep seated interest in the arts and languages. In the day, when she's not balancing chemical equations and learning their mechanisms, she's painting. At night, shrouded in mystery, she writes her prose. She enjoys memoiristic fiction and deems her writings a direct reflection of her emotions, most of which can be found on her social media handle.





Pakistan

Talha Khalid is a a student from Lahore, Pakistan ostensibly doing a degree in accounting. On my gooddays, however, I approachs the question of money differently, by attempting to capture themiddle class experiences of the city. While I particularly enjoys sci-fi, my own writings deal with a range of genres. While I takes great pride in my writings, they have yet to win me any prizesor accoldates.

Kassandra Kizlin is a Jewish American writer who grew up in Omaha Nebraska before graduating from the University of Kansas in May 2022 with a Bachelor's degree in both English Creative Writing and Jewish Studies with a minor in History. She has been published in Fine Lines Literary Magazine in 2016 and 2017, was in the International Writing Program Summer Institute 2021, and was invited to participate again in 2022. Currently, Kizlin is living, working, and writing in Kansas City.





Nidhi Krishna is a dramaturg and playwright pursuing an MA Dramaturgy and Writing for Performance from Goldsmiths. University of London. She is also a poet, and has had poetry published in The Bombay Literary Magazine, Scroll.in, The Bangalore Review, as well as in the anthology A Letter, A Poem, A Home - A Collection of Poems and Essays. An extract fro, her play Mera Kaat Kaleja, Dilli, was recently showcased at the Soho Theatre, London.

Abhiram KUCHIBHOTLA is an executive at the Agri-Entrepreneur Growth Foundation (AEGF) and works in the media and communications team. He is an alumnus of the Manipal Centre for Humanities, where he majored in English and headed The MCH Blog. His work can be found at Doing Sociology, RIC Journal, Chaicopy and Verse of Silence.



Junaid Rashid lone is a budding poet from Kashmir, India. He has earned his BA (Hons) in English at Aligarh Muslim University. He is currently pursuing master's degree in English literature. He is a member of Soch organization that works for the upliftment of underprivileged children. He is also associated with the non-profit organization, AAWF, Aligarh. As a poet, he deals with the trauma, agony, loss and separation of conflict.



India



Maumil Mehraj is a fiction writer from Kashmir, and she studies Conflict Transformation and Peace Building at Lady Shri Ram College for Women, where she is writing her dissertation on the Material Memories of Conflict.



Alia Mnayer is a creative nonfiction writer from Waterloo, Iowa. She an alumnus from the University of Iowa, where she majored in English and creative writing and minored in Arabic, political science, and psychology. In the fall she will embark on a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant grant to Rabat, Morocco. She is a recipient of the Iowa Chapbook Prize, and has been published in several undergraduate publications.

Khadija Rehman (India) is a final year student at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, pursuing a master's degree in English Literature. She is an alumnus of Delhi University where she majored in English Litetature. She writes fiction and poetry. She has been published in LSR College Magazine Blog and The Medley.





My name is Eleen Raja and I live in Lahore, Pakistan. I'm in my last year of my undergraduate degree, majoring in English Literature. I am an editorial volunteer at my university's magazine, "The Gazette" where I'm hoping to attain the position of Head Editor. Avidly interested in the art of criticism and indulging in the genre of science fiction nowadays.

Fatima is from Karachi, Pakistan. She is interested in literary realism and coming-of-age/Bildungsroman fiction. She likes to explore themes of female identity, more specifically, the South Asian Muslim woman's experience in her fiction. She received the Kensett prize for distinction in O-Level English Language and Literature at the Karachi Grammar School.

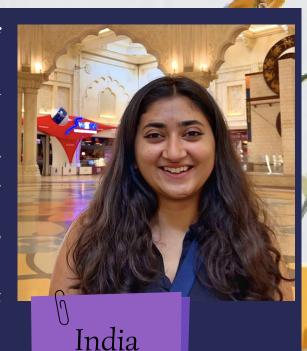




Sharmila Senthil is a graduate from Shanti Bhavan school. She is currently doing her Bachelor's in Psychology and Journalism and minoring in English and World Literature. She is a passionate writer and hopes to write her own fantasy sequel one day.

India

Himangi Shekhawat is a graduate of Lady Shri Ram College, New Delhi with a major in English. They are currently a Teach for India Fellow. They write poetry and creative non-fiction, and their work can be found at Jabberwock Magazine (LSR) Literati and Magazine, where they were nominated for the Pushcart Prize (2020) in Poetry and Best of the Net (2020) in Creative Non-Fiction.



Grace Shieh is a sophomore at NYU Abu Dhabi studying Economics and Creative Writing. She serves as the Features Editor of The Gazelle, and her works have appeared in Airport Road and on campus exhibitions. She was a Summer Scholar at NYUAD's Writing Center and was recently awarded the Undergraduate Summer Research Grant to work on a writing project.





Shehzor Mujthedi is a rapper-poet and music producer from Hyderabad, working mainly in the English and Dakhni languages. Ae writes on questions of Muslim lives, communism, materialism, euphoria, and disruption. Ae is working on their first full length poetry collection, Ghosts that Matter, to be published in 2022. Ae also run a philosophy podcast called Awaarelaal Philosophy, and are currently working on a comparative study of Spinoza and queer Sufism for it.



Zoha Jan Tagi is a writer, educationist and MPhil Scholar in English Literature from Islamabad, Pakistan. Her essays and musings have appeared in local publications such as Daily Times and The News. She occasionally dabbles in spoken word poetry and was the National finalist for the Pakistan Poetry Slam, in 2017. Her poetry has been published in My City My Home and elsewhere.

Ume Aiman Tariq is a fiction writer from Peshawar, Pakistan. She is an alumnus of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women University, where she majored in literature and minored in linguistics. Her poems have been published in SBBWU's magazine Lumiere. In her free time, Aiman walks, listens to indie songs, and reads extensively



Zarnab Tufail is a Pakistani writer & artist. She is a second-year medical student in Gujranwala where she is a representative of the Gemcian Debating Society. She is the co-Founder and Editor-In-Chief at The Walled City Journal. She has received scholarships and awards from the University of Health & Sciences, and the University of Iowa, among others. She is passionate about female representation in the healthcare system. Her work can be found in Vagabond City Lit, Changing Womxn Collective, Coven Editions, In Parentheses, and elsewhere.



Pakistan



Sidney Wollmuth has a BFA in Creative Writing and a BA in English Literature from the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Her work has been recognized by the Scholastic Art and Writing competition, Huffington Post, and No Contact Mag, among others. In her free time, she takes a lot of naps.



Mahnoor Zubair is a final year undergraduate student at National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST). As a Psychology major, sheprefers writing stories which reflect the inner workings of the human mind. Dystopian fiction is one of her preferredgenres, as it is a good medium forthe portrayal of complex human behavior.

Program June 23 - July 7

Participants arrive all day, get
messenger bag, move into dorms,
unpack. RA-led activities. 11:15-1:15p
early arrivals)
6:00p-Dinner
(boxed dinner provided)
Currier Hall Multipurpose
Room

Day 2: Friday, 15 July

8:00-9:00a Breakfast at Catlett Hall

9:00-11:00a HR visa check-in and Reimbursements (*bring passports and reimbursement documents) Shambaugh House

11:15-12:15p Lunch at Catlett Hall

12:30-1:30p Immigration orientation, UI ISSS (*bring passports, DS-2019s) UCC International Commons Conference Room

2:00-5:00p Welcome back, reintroductions, community building, and Covid-19 protocols Currier Hall MP Room

5:00-6:15p Dinner at Catlett Hall

6:30-9:00p Free time

9:00-10:00p Mandatory dorm meeting with RAs in

12:00a Stanley

Hall closes

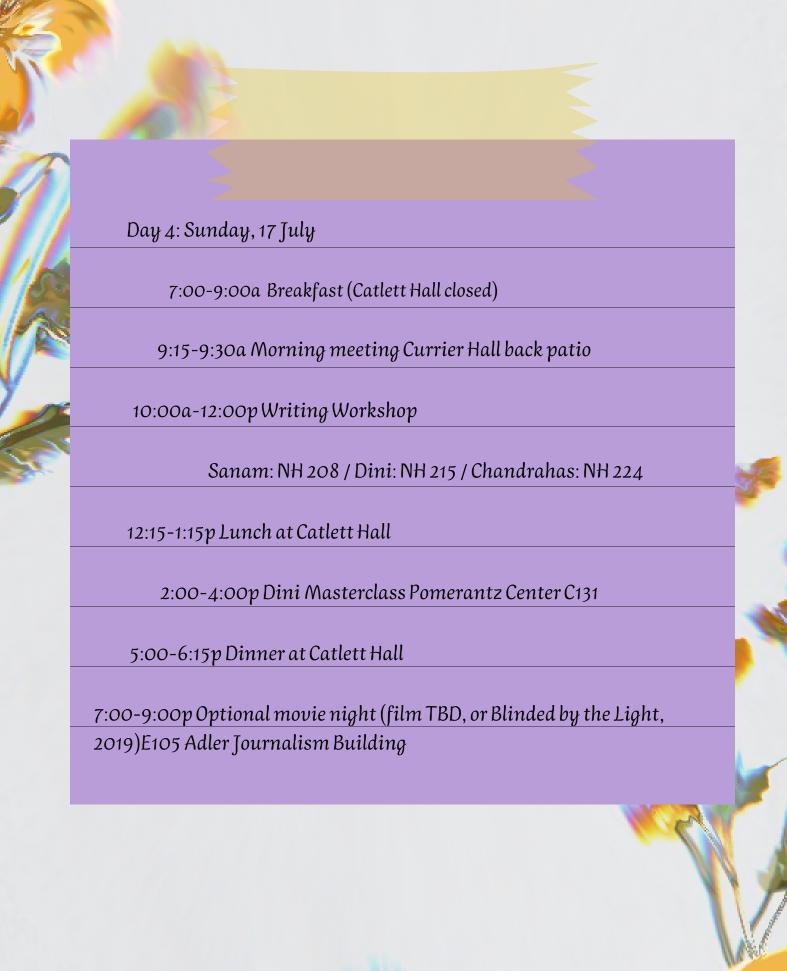
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Currier Hall MP Room

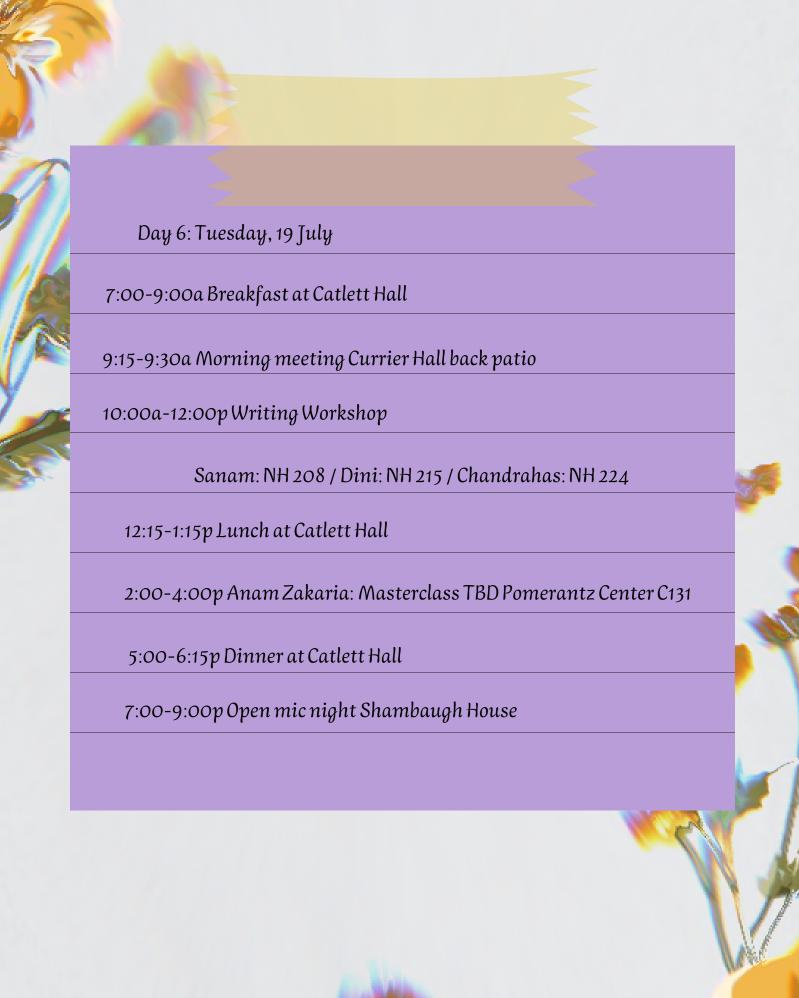


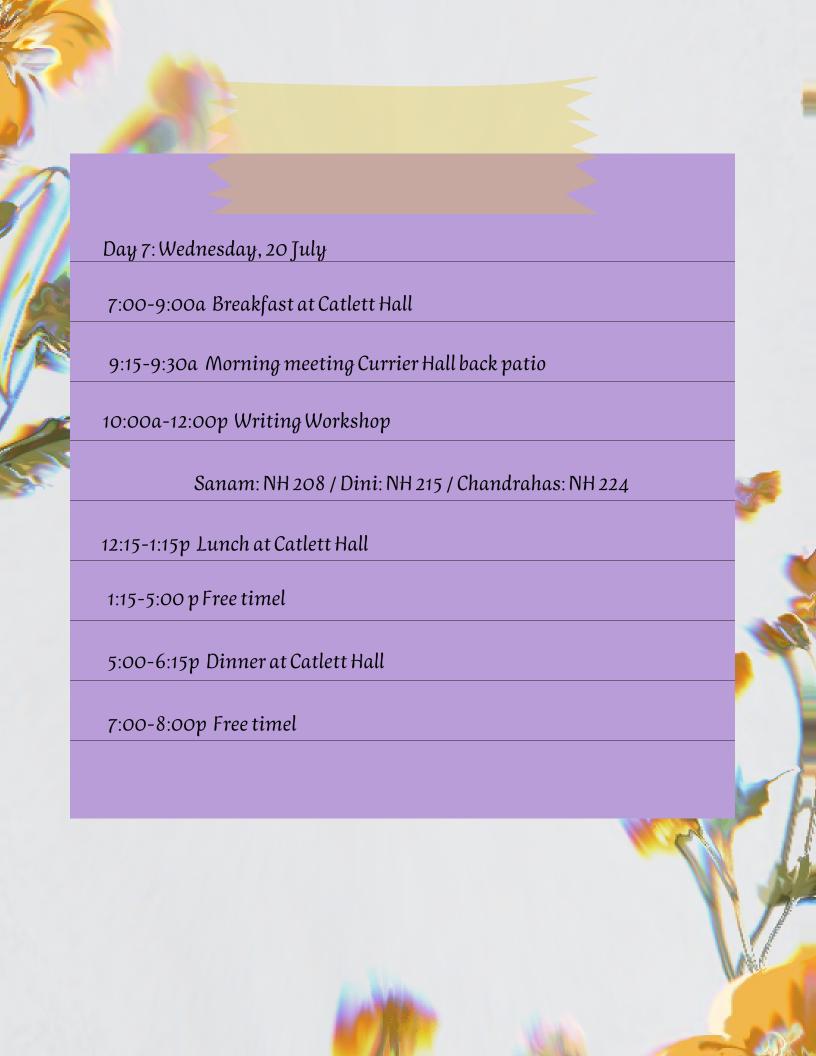
6:30 pm REUNION NIGHT featuring City Park AND Fairchildren @ Ped Mall Stage

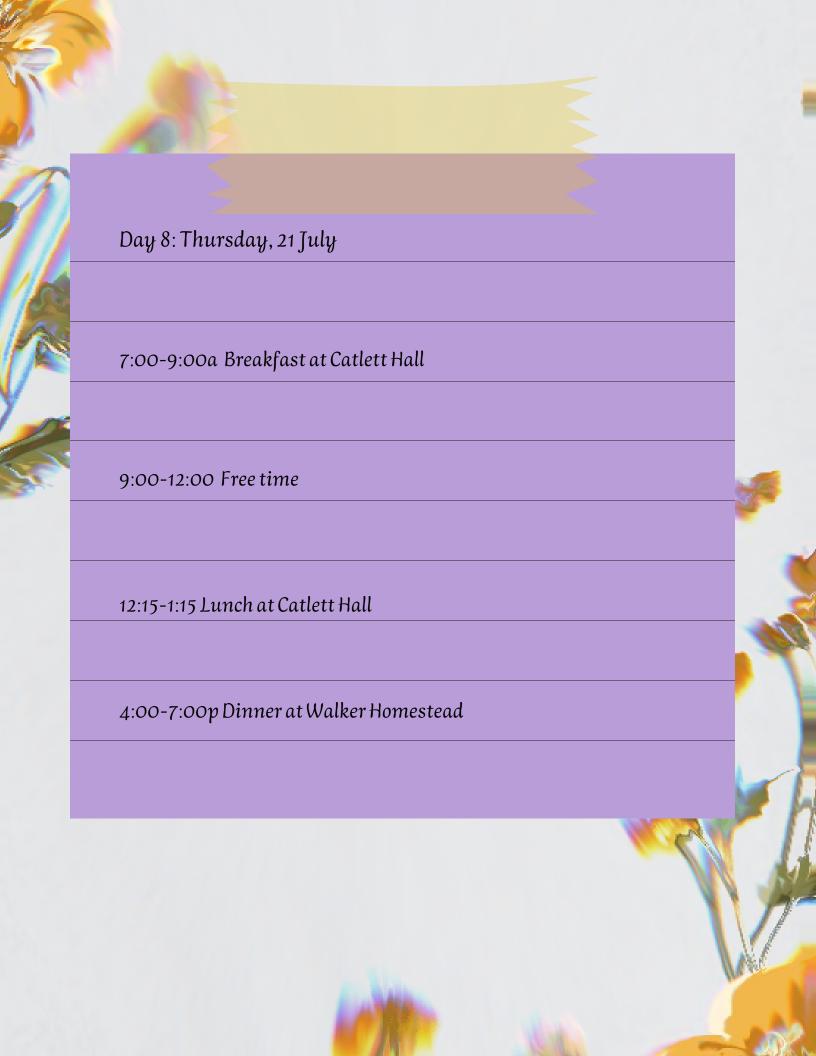


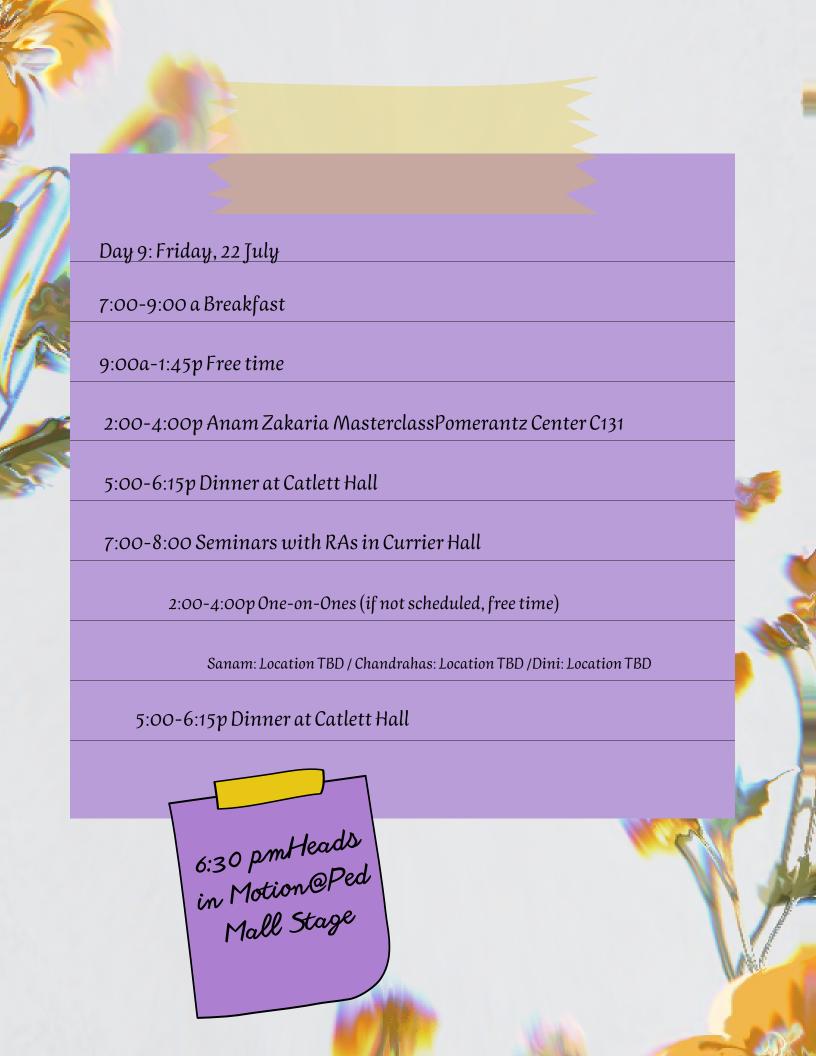


Day 5: Monday, 18 July 7:00-9:00a Breakfast at Catlett Hal 9:15-9:30a Morning meeting Currier Hall back patio 10:00a-12:00p Writing Workshop Sanam: NH 208 / Dini: NH 215 / Chandrahas: NH 224 12:15-1:15p Lunch at Catlett Hall 2:00-4:00p Chandrahas Masterclass Pomerantz Center C131 5:00-6:15p Dinner at Catlett Hall 7:00-8:00p Mentors' Reading Prairie Lights Bookstore, 15 South Dubuque Street









Day 10: Saturday, 23 July

7:00-9:00a Breakfast at Catlett Hall-or-Iowa City Farmer's Market

9:15-9:30a Morning meeting Currier Hall back patio

10:00a-12:00p Writing Workshop

Sanam: NH 208 / Dini: NH 215 / Chandrahas: NH 224

12:15-1:15p Lunch at Catlett Hall

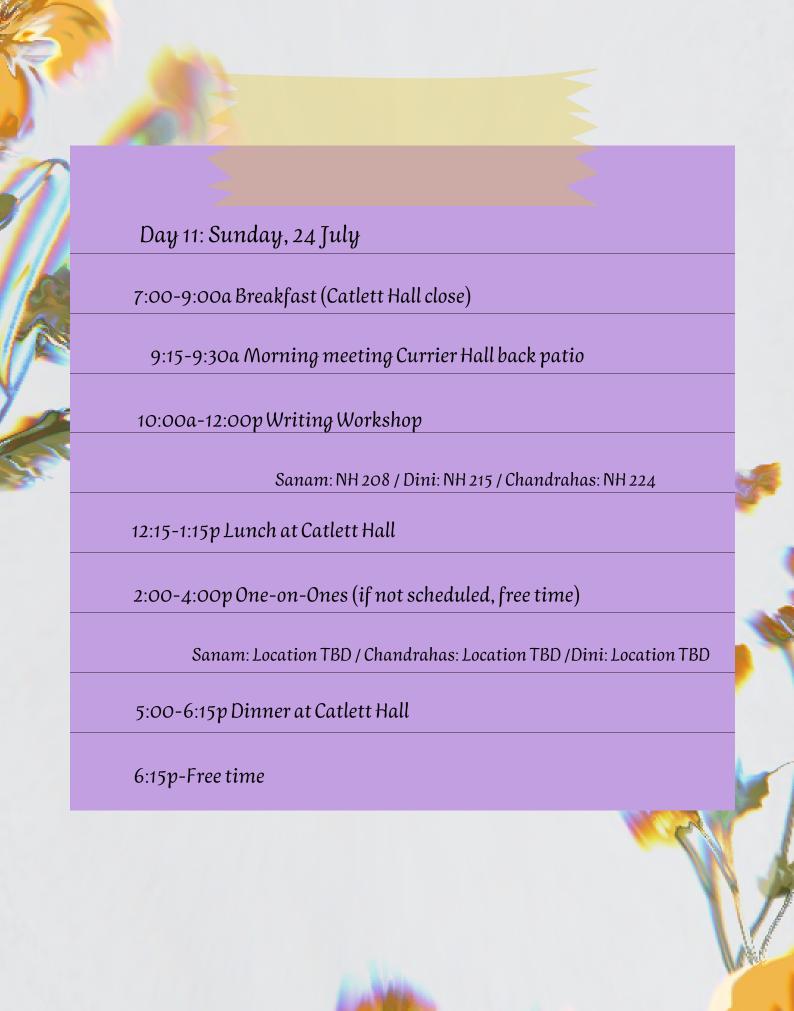
2:00-4:00p One-on-Ones (if not scheduled, free time)

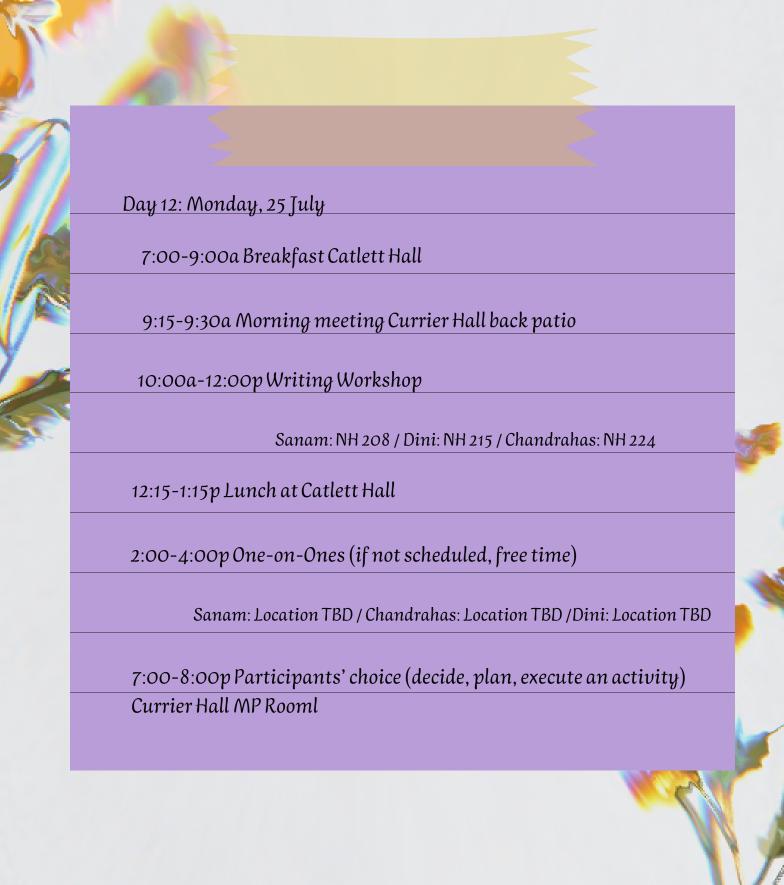
Sanam: Location TBD / Chandrahas: Location TBD / Dini: Location TBD

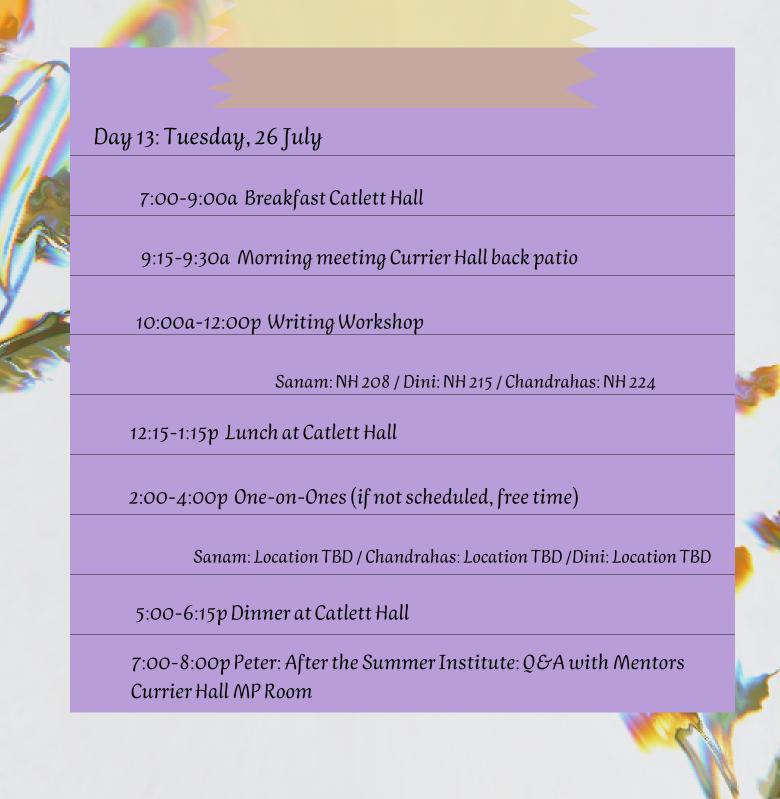
8:30 pm Raya and the Last Dragon@Upper City Park

5:00-6:15p Dinner at Catlett Hall

9:7:00-8:00pSI Assistant: Participant panel: Who I am, an expert Currier Hall MP Room







Day 14: Wednesday, 27 July

7:00-9:00a Breakfast Catlett Hall

9:15-9:30a Morning meeting Currier Hall back patio

10:00a-12:00p One-on-Ones (if not scheduled, free time)

Sanam: Location TBD / Chandrahas: Location TBD / Dini: Location TBD

12:15-1:15p Lunch at Catlett Hall

1:30-3:30p The SI: Reflections and affirmations Currier Hall MP Room

3:30-4:30pm Post-Program SurveyCurrier Hall Computer Rooml

5:00-6:15p Dinner at Catlett Hall

7:00-8:00p Graduation celebration Currier Hall MP Room

Day 15: Thursday,
7 July
Participants pack,
move out of dorm,
depart all dayAll
checked out of Stanley
Hall by 12:00pm

