



<http://iwp.uiowa.edu/>



Annual Report 2009



iwp International Writing Program

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Honor Roll of Contributors to the
International Writing Program

 Now more than ever, the voyages we undertake at the IWP seek to increase cultural diplomacy and mutual understanding among diverse peoples. 

The IWP: Keeping Literature in Motion

A letter from IWP Director Christopher Merrill

Participants in this year's IWP exchanges fulfilled
Tennessee Williams' advice: "Make voyages.
Attempt them. There is nothing more."

Dear Friends,

High summer in Iowa City: a time to reflect on another extraordinary year for the International Writing Program (IWP). In this, our 42nd year, the IWP's cultural exchange efforts grew by leaps and bounds, creating unparalleled opportunities for writers from all over the world to interact with one another and with members of the communities they visited. In 2009, participants in the IWP exchanges took part in a series of remarkable programs. Our writers led workshops in Kenya, traversed the Silk Road in Western China, and visited colleges and universities throughout the United States--all while bringing writers and communities a bit closer together.

Whether connecting classrooms in Ireland and Iowa City through a digital video conference, teaching creative writing workshops in Nairobi and the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya, or lecturing on Global Humor at the Chicago Humanities Festival, participants in this year's IWP exchanges fulfilled Tennessee Williams' advice: "Make voyages. Attempt them. There is nothing more." The IWP has set the course for literary exchange, and in 2009, the wind was certainly at our backs.

The fall residency continues to be, as one writer put it this year, "a paradise for creative people." In 2009, 36 writers from 32 countries made inspiring contributions to the literary community in Iowa City and elsewhere. Between August and November, the

writers engaged in new translations and collaborative projects, and interacted with readers and writers at more than 100 public events around the country. As featured presenters at Portland's Wordstock literary festival, at the Chicago Humanities Festival, and at the Pittsburgh Jazz/Poetry Concert, they treated audiences across the U.S. to performances and readings of their own work, and collaborated with the choreographers and dancers at the CityDance Ensemble in Washington D.C. They were invited to visit campuses from coast to coast. We are a little dazzled by the impact these writers made during their time in Iowa.

With much of the UI arts campus still under construction after the devastating flood of 2008, reminders of renewal and renovation were in no short supply. In July 2009, the second iteration of Between the Lines brought the dynamic dual-language creative writing enrichment program for Arabic-speaking teenagers into collaborative contact with the Iowa Young Writers' Studio. Twelve students from the Middle East participated in writing workshops and literature seminars in both English and Arabic, working alongside their American peers to strengthen creative abilities and foster cross-cultural understanding.

Two-thousand-nine also saw the debut of the Life of Discovery project, a two-year pilot program aiming to deepening cultural relations between

early-career writers and artists from mainland China and the United States. Five writers from the U.S. met six writers from Chinese minority and ethnic communities for a two-way exchange of works and ideas. In May, the delegations met in Dunhuang, a Silk Road town in Western China, and reunited in Iowa City in October, on a series of bilingual collaborative projects led by UK fiction writer Edward Carey (IWP '02), Chinese novelist Hu Xuewen, and Chinese poet Xi Chuan (IWP '02).

The IWP's overseas reading tours continue to reach out to writers and students no matter where they may live. In spring 2009, the IWP led a group of American writers to Morocco and Tunisia, a trip which included presentations and a book signing at the Tunis International Book Fair. Extending and expanding the successful New Symposium series of lectures, the Souk Ukaz (Arabic for "marketplace") project brought writers and thinkers together in conversation in Morocco, an ancient crossroads for intellectual and cultural exchange. And in mid-summer, the IWP brought a separate delegation of American authors to Kenya to lead creative writing workshops with students and faculty at a number of Universities, including literary community members in the Eastleigh district of Nairobi, as well as with Somali refugees in Dadaab. At the refugee camp, the American writers taught and interacted with more than 200 Somali students.

Now more than ever, the voyages we undertake at the IWP seek to increase cultural diplomacy and mutual understanding among diverse peoples. Through worldwide exchanges and dialogue, with a digital framework at our fingertips, and in the wake of Iowa City's UNESCO City of Literature designation, we look forward to a bright future at the IWP. Your support has been vital to this project, and I invite you to review our program activities in this report and on the IWP website: <http://iwp.uiowa.edu/>.

Sincerely,



Christopher Merrill
Director

The Fall Residency

August 29-November 17, 2009

In fall 2009, the IWP welcomed 36 writers from 32 countries to Iowa City for the 42nd session of the residency program. These writers formed deep cross-cultural bonds with each other and with the many Americans they met during their three-month stay. This year's participants hailed from nations as diverse as Austria, Jamaica, New Zealand, France, Burma, Uzbekistan, Australia, Venezuela, Croatia, Jordan, Pakistan, Wales, Ireland, Egypt, Japan, and Iraq. The effect of this confluence of languages and cultures was sometimes dizzying. As one participant put it, "there is something else at work here."

As a UNESCO-designated City of Literature, Iowa City is home to a unique community of readers, writers, artists, and students. Participants in the IWP fall residency soon found themselves joining this ready-made family, participating in activities organized by the IWP and other UI writing units, including the Writers' Workshop and the Nonfiction Writing Program. These activities—readings, panels, talks, and presentations—added up to dozens of public events held at venues all over Iowa City. The residency also afforded opportunities for the writers to attend readings and performances by distinguished visiting authors like Mark Strand, John McPhee, Robert Dana, and Eavan Boland (IWP '79).

Our writers' influence extended far beyond Iowa. IWP writers took part in literary activities, festivals, performances, and collaborations in 29 cities across 17 states. One IWP participant, Pakistani prose writer and director Azeem Sajjad, directed the first

in-residency YouTube film ever made, a music video to accompany fellow IWP participant Fflur Dafydd's song "Yr Ymylon." The video featured cameos by more than a dozen IWP participants and can be viewed on the IWP's new YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/iowaIWPIWP> writers were also featured presenters at the 2009 Chicago Humanities Festival, the Pittsburgh JazzPoetry Festival, and at the Wordstock Literary Festival in Portland, Oregon.

Highlights of the Iowa portion of the residency included: a one-on-one meeting with radio personality and bookworm Michael Silverblatt; the staging of "Global Express," a dramatic performance featuring short plays written by six IWP writers-in-residence; the panel "International Women Writers Roundtable," hosted by the Women's Resource Action Center at the University of Iowa, featuring four of our writers; the live broadcast of writer interviews on the radio programs Artists in Action, At the Moment, and The Exchange; and a series of presentations at UI's Senior College. Alongside weekly programming staples such as the Prairie Lights Reading Series, the Shambaugh House Reading Series, Iowa City Public Library Lecture Series, IWP writers visited classrooms across campus. Collaborative translation projects through IWP's International Translation Workshop course, and literary presentations in International Literature Today, deepened the interactions between writers at the IWP and the local and university communities.

The residents of Iowa City and the University of Iowa



welcomed the writers to the Midwest in a variety of special ways. The Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities (CIVIC) hosted a dinner honoring the writers, and other dinners and barbecues hosted by US Bank and University of Iowa faculty dominated the fall's evening schedule. The Anthology reading series, a multi-genre fortnightly reading series, featured IWP writers reading short extracts of their work alongside graduate students in the Iowa Writers' Workshop and local writers.

Attending square dances, performances at the local music venue The Mill, explorations of the Mississippi River and its history, and interactions with the Amish communities Kalona and the Amana Colonies rounded out a residency that may best be distilled by the words of Filipino writer and director Vicente Groyon:

"The educational value of simply coming into close contact with other writers and learning through them about other literatures, other ways of seeing and writing, other ways of living and thinking, while at the same time recognizing the many other things that cut across cultures to a shared humanity...my experience of the IWP has been one of burgeoning respect, understanding, and appreciation for the overload of perspectives that are shared daily."



Field Trips, Receptions & Cultural Events

8.29
Residency Begins

8.30
Nature Hike at Redbird Farms

8.31
IWP Orientation
Opening Party at Christopher Merrill's home

9.4
Interview on KRUI's "The Exchange" program
"Literature of Desire" panel at Iowa City Public Library (ICPL)

9.5
Pizza Party at Christopher Merrill's home

9.7
Labor Day trip to Lake Macbride and Wilson's Orchard

9.9
Open World Begins

9.10
Delegation to Pittsburgh Jazz/Poetry Conference
Small Presses and World Literatures Roundtable
C.I.V.I.C. Dinner

9.11
Reading by translator and poet Matvei Yankelevich at
Prairie Lights Bookstore "Teaching Writing" Panel

9.12
Open World Reception

9.15
Presentation by Stanley Foundation President Vlad
Sambaiew
Open World reading

9.16
Farewell Reception for Open World
"Lost Origins of the Essay" reading at Prairie Lights
Bookstore

9.18
"What's in a Name?" Panel

9.19
Trip to Effigy Mounds, IA

9.20
C.A.P.S Reception for Asian IWP Writers
Barbeque at UI Professor Aimee Carillo Rowe's house

9.21
Text and Context: "Publishing in the U.S."

9.25
"Translating, or Writing Across Languages" Panel

9.26
Trip to Kalona
English Department Reception at the home of UI
Professors Denise Filios and Jon Wilcox

9.27
Reception at the home of UI Professor Anna Barker

9.28
1 on 1 with radio personality and book reviewer
Michael Silverblatt

9.29
John McPhee and Michael Silverblatt reading

9.29 – 10.3
Group trips to San Francisco, New Orleans, and the
Mountain West

10.3-10.11
Delegation to Wordstock literary festival, Portland,
OR

10.9
"1989 – 2009" panel

10.12
Poetry Reading by Eavan Boland

10.13
Special Lecture and Q&A Session with Eavan Boland
Life of Discovery delegations arrive in Iowa City

10.14
Live Web Chat with Eavan Boland

10.15
Digital Video Conference with Eavan Boland
Special Lecture on "Untimeliness in Ge Fei's Fiction"
Delegation departs for Viterbo University

10.16
"Questions of Travel" panel

10.20
US Bank Reception
International Women Writers Roundtable
Life of Discovery Art Installation opening

10.21
Life of Discovery bilingual reading
Fflur Dafydd music video premier

10.22
Life of Discovery departure
Reading by Poet Laureate Mark Strand

10.23
"Why I Write What I Write and How I Write It" panel

10.23 – 10.24
Performance of Leaner Than Light

10.24
Performance of Global Express

10.25
17th Annual Harvest Dinner at Dane Farm

10.29
Reading by Er Tai Gao

10.30
"Images of America" panel
Party hosted by UI Journalism Professor Mike Judge

10.31
Halloween party hosted by UI Spanish Creative
Writing Program Director Ana Merino

11.2
MFA Translation student reading

11.6 – 11.8
Group Trip to Chicago

11.7
Chicago Humanities Festival Panel, "Global Humor in
the Digital Age"

11.10
Closing Party

11.11 – 11.14
Group Trip to Washington DC

11.14 – 11.17
Group Trip to New York City

11.17
Departure/End of Residency



2009 Residency Activities

Yasser Abdel Latif (Egypt)

- 9.4 Interview, WSUI's The Exchange
- 9.8 Presentation, Middle-East Literature Panel
- 9.11 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Teaching Writing"
- 9.13 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 10.8 Presentation, Grinnell College
- 10.12 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.20 Presentation, Undergraduate Middle-East Literature Course
- 10.23 Presentation, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Yahya Alabdallah (Jordan)

- 9.8 Presentation, Middle-East Literature Panel
- 9.16 IWP Cinemathèque Screening of Divine Intervention
- 9.18 Presentation, First Year Seminar
- 10.6 Presentation, Undergraduate Middle-East Literature Course
- 10.23 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- 10.26 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.29 Presentation, Coe College

Jan-Willem Anker (Netherlands)

- 9.20 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 9.30 IWP Cinemathèque Screening of Abel
- 10.5 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.16 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Questions of Travel"
- 11.3 Reading, Oaknoll Retirement Home

Maxine Case (South Africa)

- 9.4 Interview, WSUI's The Exchange
- 9.15 Presentation, Cornell College

- 9.24 Presentation, Drake University
- 9.27 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 10.9 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "1989 – 2009"
- 10.19 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.20 Presentation, Women's Resource and Action Center
- 11.3 Presentation, Undergraduate Journalism Course

Osman Pius Conteh (Sierra Leone)

- 9.28 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.3 Participation in week-long Wordstock Literature Festival (Portland, OR)
- 10.19 Presentation, Scott Community College
- 10.20 Presentation, University of Iowa's Senior College
- 10.23 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Why I Write..."
- 11.1 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 11.7 Presentation, Chicago Humanities Festival

Fflur Dafydd (Wales/UK)

- 9.9 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 9.16 Presentation, Undergraduate Creative Writing Course
- 9.16 Performance at The Mill
- 9.21 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 9.21 Musical Performance at Public Space 1, Iowa City
- 9.25 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Translation"
- 10.3 Participation in week-long Wordstock Literature Festival (Portland, OR)

Miloš Djurdjević (Croatia)

- 9.4 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Literature of Desire"
- 9.10 Participation in Pittsburgh Jazz-Poetry Festival
- 9.15 Presentation, Cornell College
- 9.20 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 10.5 Presentation, International Literature Today

Dung Kai Cheung (Hong Kong)

- 9.11 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Teaching Writing"
- 9.21 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.16 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- 10.30 3-day trip to Harvard University
- 11.13 Collaboration with CityDance Ensemble in Washington D.C.

Ge Fei (China)

- 9.4 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Literature of Desire"
- 10.15 Special UI Lecture: "Untimeliness in Ge Fei's Fiction"
- 10.16 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- 10.19 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.30 3-day trip to Harvard University

Millicent Graham (Jamaica)

- 9.4 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Literature of Desire"
- 9.27 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 9.28 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.6 Presentation, University of Iowa's Senior College
- 10.15 Presentation, Viterbo University
- 10.20 Presentation, Women's Resource and Action Center

Violet Grigoryan (Armenia)

- 10.9 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "1989 – 2009"
- 10.30 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- 11.2 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 11.3 Interview for KRUI's Artists in Action

Vicente Garcia Groyon (Philippines)

- 9.23 IWP Cinemathèque Screening of Namets!
- 9.25 Presentation in First Year Seminar
- 9.25 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Translation"
- 10.5 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.18 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 11.8 Plays staged at Portland Stage Company

Han Bo (China)

- 9.21 Trip to Beijing for production of new play

- 10.4 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 10.12 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.16 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Questions of Travel"
- 11.4 IWP Cinemathèque Screening of The Sun Also Rises
- 11.13 Collaboration with CityDance Ensemble in Washington D.C.

Hanaa Hijazi (Saudi Arabia)

- 9.4 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- 9.8 Presentation, Middle-East Literature Panel
- 9.9 IWP Cinemathèque Screening of Caramel
- 9.11. Presentation in First Year Seminar
- 9.18 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "What's in a Name?"
- 9.21 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 9.22 Presentation, Undergraduate Middle-East Literature Course

Marius Ivaškevičius (Lithuania)

- 9.6 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 9.28 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.9 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "1989 – 2009"
- 11.7 Presentation, Chicago Humanities Festival
- 11.8 Plays staged at Portland Stage Company

Jiang Bin (China)

- 10.16 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Questions of Travel"
- 10.19 Presentation, International Literature Today

Meena Kandasamy (India)

- 9.6 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 9.10 Participation in Pittsburgh Jazz-Poetry Festival
- 9.18 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "What's in a Name?"
- 9.25 Dinner with UI's Southeast Asia Studies Program
- 10.12 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.13 Presentation, Undergraduate Middle-East Literature Course
- 10.15 Presentation, Platform for Public Scholars
- 10.20 Presentation, University of Iowa's Senior College
- 10.20 Presentation, Women's Resource and Action Center
- 10.31 Presentation, Indian Cultural Association (Ames, IA)

Kang Youngsook (South Korea)

- 9.21 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 9.25 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- 10.9 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "1989 – 2009"

Kim Do Eon (South Korea)

9.25 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series

Kim Soom (South Korea)

9.18 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series

Min Htet Maung (Myanmar)

9.18 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
 10.19 Presentation, International Literature Today
 10.23 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Why I Write..."

Efrat Mishori (Israel)

9.18 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "What's in a Name?"
 10.11 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
 10.14 Performance at The Mill
 10.19 Presentation, International Literature Today
 10.20 Presentation, Women's Resource and Action Center
 10.21 Interview for KRUI's Artists in Action
 10.27 Presentation, Undergraduate Middle-East Literature Course
 11.13 Collaboration with CityDance Ensemble in Washington D.C.

Soheil Najm (Iraq)

9.4 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
 9.8 Presentation, Middle-East Literature Panel
 9.10 Participation in Pittsburgh Jazz-Poetry Festival
 9.25 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Translation"
 10.3 Participation in week-long Wordstock Literature Festival (Portland, OR)
 10.13 Presentation, University of Iowa's Senior College
 10.19 Presentation, Scott Community College
 10.20 Presentation, Michigan State University
 10.26 Presentation, International Literature Today
 10.27 Presentation, Undergraduate Middle-East Literature Course

Kyoko Nakajima (Japan)

9.3 Presentation, Central College
 10.16 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Questions of Travel"
 10.25 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
 10.27 Presentation, UI's Senior College
 11.2 Presentation, International Literature Today

Hagar Peeters (The Netherlands)

9.10 Reading, C.I.V.I.C. dinner
 9.13 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
 9.18 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel:

"What's in a Name?"

9.21 Presentation, International Literature Today
 11.3 Reading, Oaknoll Retirement Home

Alice Pung (Australia)

9.4 Radio Interview, WSUI's The Exchange
 9.4 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Literature of Desire"
 10.4 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
 10.5 Presentation, International Literature Today
 10.13 Presentation, Undergraduate Journalism course
 10.15 Presentation, Viterbo University
 10.20 Presentation, Undergraduate Journalism Course
 10.21 Second Life Reading, Virtual Reading and Panel Series
 10.28 Radio Interview for KRUI's Artists in Action
 11.7 Presentation, Chicago Humanities Festival
 2.5. 2010 Live Discussion (on-line chat), Virtual Writing University website

Mabrouck Rachedi (France)

9.8 Presentation, Middle-East Literature Panel
 9.11 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Teaching Writing"
 10.6 Presentation, UI's Senior College
 10.12 Presentation, Undergraduate French Course
 10.23 Presentation, University of Wisconsin-Madison
 10.25 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
 10.27 Presentation, Grinnell College
 10.28 IWP Cinemathèque Screening of Still Walking
 11.2 Presentation, International Literature Today
 11.7 Presentation, Chicago Humanities Festival

Dragica Rajčić(Switzerland/Croatia)

9.11 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
 9.28 Travel to Switzerland for conference
 10.9 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "1989 – 2009"
 10.12 Presentation, International Literature Today
 10.18 Presentations at the University of Utah and Western Michigan University
 10.27 Presentation, Iowa State University
 10.28 Presentation, Grinnell College

Mani Rao (India/Hong Kong)

9.25 Dinner with UI's Southeast Asia Studies Program
 10.16 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Questions of Travel"
 10.18 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
 10.31 Presentation, Indian Cultural Association (Ames, IA)

Azeem Sajjad (Pakistan)

9.18 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "What's in a Name?"
 9.25 Dinner with UI's Southeast Asia Studies Program
 10.13 Presentation, Undergraduate Middle-East Literature Course
 10.19 Presentation, Scott Community College
 10.21 IWP Cinemathèque Screening of Ramchand Pakistani
 10.23 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
 10.26 Presentation, International Literature Today
 10.27 Presentation, UI's Senior College

Fedosa Santaella (Venezuela)

9.11 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Teaching Writing"
 9.16 Presentation, Texas Tech University
 9.28 Presentation, International Literature Today
 10.3 Participation in week-long Wordstock Literature Festival (Portland, OR)
 10.11 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
 10.12 Presentation, Grinnell College
 10.15 Presentation, Viterbo University

Siobhán Ní Shíthigh (Ireland)

10.9 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
 10.13 Presentation, UI's Senior College
 10.23 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Why I Write..."
 11.2 Presentation, International Literature Today

Salomat Vafo (Uzbekistan)

9.4 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Literature of Desire"
 10.20 Presentation, Undergraduate Middle-East Literature Course
 10.26 Presentation, International Literature Today
 10.30 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
 11.8 Plays staged at Portland Stage Company

Andreas Weber (Austria)

10.9 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
 10.23 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Why I Write..."
 10.28 Presentation, Grinnell College
 11.1 Presentation, German Heritage Society of Bettendorf (IA)
 11.2 Presentation, International Literature Today

Kathy White (New Zealand)

9.11 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Teaching Writing"
 9.11 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
 10.7 IWP Cinemathèque Screening of Poisoning Paradise

10.9 Presentation, First Year Seminar
 10.26 Presentation, International Literature Today
 11.13 Collaboration with CityDance Ensemble in Washington D.C.

Lijia Zhang (China)

9.11 Travel to Conference in Beijing
 9.25 Interview, WSUI's The Exchange
 9.25 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library Panel: "Translation"
 9.28 Presentation, International Literature Today
 10.3 Participation in week-long Wordstock Literature Festival (Portland, OR)
 10.14 IWP Cinemathèque Screening of Platform
 10.21 Interview for KRUI's Artists in Action
 10.28 Presentation at UC-Irvine, Stanford University
 11.1 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
 11.4 Presentation, Iowa City Foreign Relations Council
 11.13 Collaboration with CityDance Ensemble in Washington D.C.
 11.14 Presentation, Asian Writers Festival in New York City

2009 Residency Participants

Yasser Abdel Latif (Egypt)

Novelist, Poet, Scriptwriter, Translator
Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S.
Department of State

Yahya Alabdallah (Jordan)

Filmmaker
Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S.
Department of State

Jan-Willem Anker (Netherlands)

Poet
U.S. Embassy in the Hague

Maxine Case (South Africa)

Fiction Writer, Novelist
Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S.
Department of State

Osman Pius Conteh (Sierra Leone)

Novelist
Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S.
Department of State

Fflur Dafydd (Wales/UK)

Novelist, Fiction Writer, Critic
British Arts Council

Miloš Djurdjević (Croatia)

Poet, Essayist, Translator
Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S.
Department of State

Dung Kai Cheung (Hong Kong)

Novelist, Literary Critic

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation**Ge Fei (China)**

Fiction Writer, Critic
Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S.
Department of State

Millicent Graham (Jamaica)

Poet
Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S.
Department of State

Violet Grigoryan (Armenia)

Poet, Essayist
U.S. Embassy in Yerevan, and the William B. Quarton
Foundation

Vicente Garcia Groyon (Philippines)

Fiction Writer, Essayist, Filmmaker
Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S.
Department of State

Han Bo (China)

Poet, Playwright
U.S. Embassy in Beijing

Hanaa Hijazi (Saudi Arabia)

Short Story Writer, Columnist
William B. Quarton Foundation

Marius Ivaškevičius (Lithuania)

Fiction Writer, Playwright, Screenwriter
Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S.
Department of State

Jiang Bin (China)

Translator
Independently Funded

Meena Kandasamy (India)

Poet, Essayist, Fiction Writer
Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S.
Department of State

Kang Youngsook (South Korea)

Fiction Writer
Arts Council Korea

Kim Do Eon (South Korea)

Novelist, Essayist
Korea Literature Translation Institute

Kim Soom (South Korea)

Novelist, Essayist
Independently Funded

Min Htet Maung (Myanmar)

Poet, Journalist, Translator
Independently Funded

Efrat Mishori (Israel)

Poet, Essayist
Fulbright Foundation of Israel

Soheil Najm (Iraq)

Poet
Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S.
Department of State

Kyoko Nakajima (Japan)

Novelist, Fiction Writer
Center for Asian and Pacific Studies at the University
of Iowa

Hagar Peeters (Netherlands)

Poet, Nonfiction Writer
Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S.
Department of State

Alice Pung (Australia)

Fiction Writer, Playwright, Nonfiction Writer
Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S.
Department of State

Mabrouck Rachedi (France)

Novelist, Essayist
U.S. Embassy in Paris

Dragica Rajčić (Switzerland)

Poet, Journalist, Playwright

Pro Helvetia, and other sources

Mani Rao (India/Hong Kong)

Poet
Independently Funded

Azeem Sajjad (Pakistan)

Director, Scriptwriter
U.S. Consulate in Peshawar

Fedosy Santaella (Venezuela)

Fiction Writer
Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S.
Department of State

Siobhán Ní Shíthigh (Ireland)

Poet
U.S. Embassy in Dublin, Arts Council Ireland, and
other sources

Salomat Vafo (Uzbekistan)

Novelist, Playwright, Screenwriter
Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S.
Department of State

Andreas Weber (Austria)

Fiction Writer, Novelist, Filmmaker
Max Kade Foundation

Kathy White (New Zealand)

Fiction Writer, Novelist
Creative New Zealand

Lijia Zhang (China)

Nonfiction Writer, Essayist
Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S.
Department of State

2009 Open World Activities

(Organized by Writer)

Maxim Amelin (Russia)

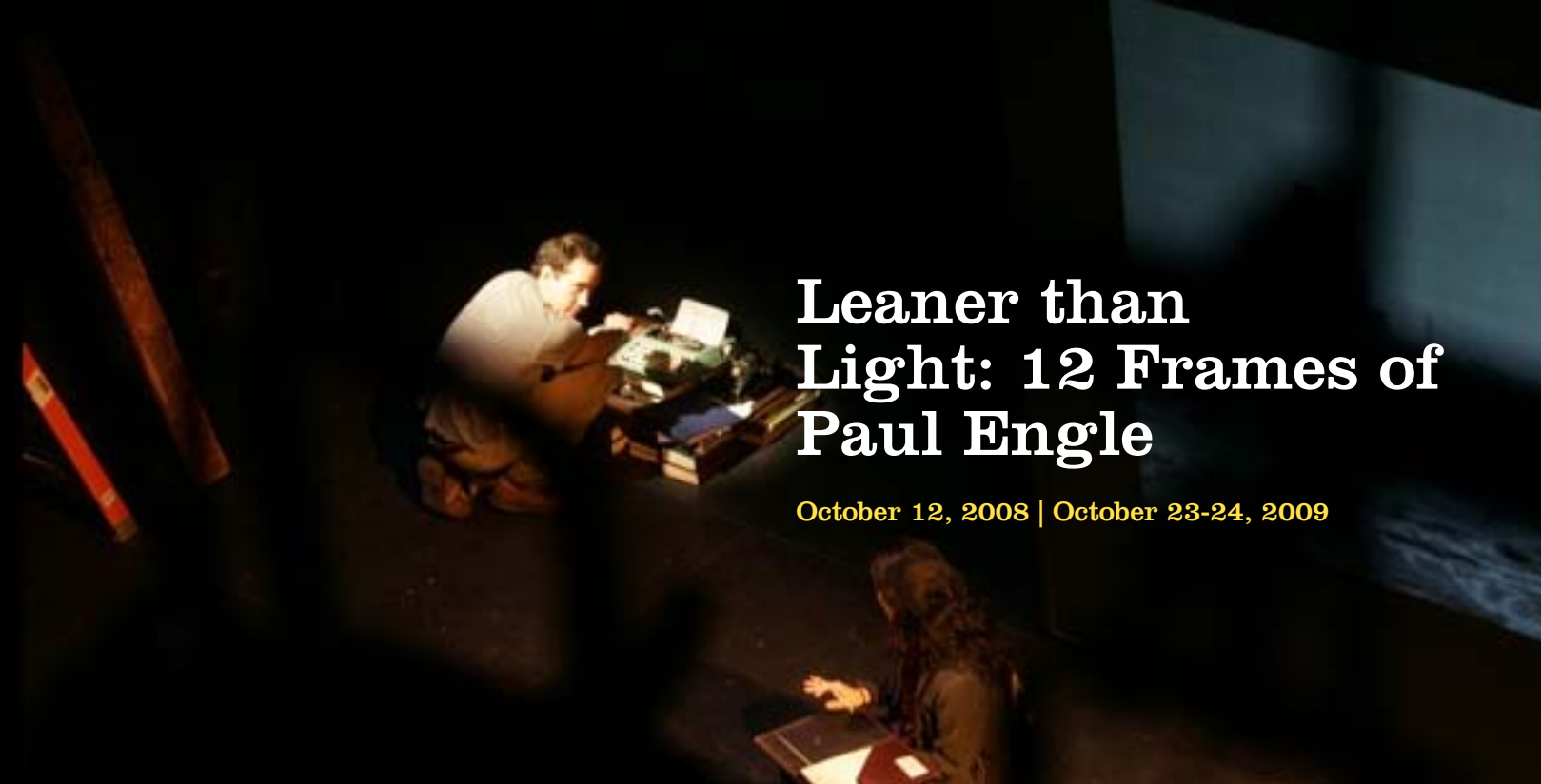
9.14 Presentation, International Literature Today
9.15 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore

Ekaterina Boyarskikh (Russia)

9.14 Presentation, International Literature Today
9.15 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore

Natalia Klyuchareva (Russia)

9.14 Presentation, International Literature Today
9.15 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore



Leaner than Light: 12 Frames of Paul Engle

October 12, 2008 | October 23-24, 2009

It has been argued that no one affected the direction of American literature in the twentieth century more than former Writers' Workshop director and International Writing Program co-founder Paul Engle. The Cedar Rapids native attended Coe College and then the University of Iowa, where he was one of the first students in the country's history to receive a graduate degree for original poetry—his collection *Worn Earth*, which won, in 1932, the prestigious Yale Series of Younger Poets award. After a Rhodes Scholarship, he returned to Iowa City to lead the fledgling Writers' Workshop to the forefront of creative-writing teaching in the country, establishing a model for graduate programs that has been imitated at hundreds of institutions nationally and now internationally.

After retiring from the Workshop, he and his wife Hualing Nieh Engle founded the International Writing Program in 1967, which continues to give writers from around the world time and space to create new work.

In honor of the 100th anniversary of Paul Engle's birth, the International Writing Program and the UI Theatre Department commissioned a one-act play about his life and work. Underwritten by a generous grant from Humanities Iowa, the play was scheduled to debut in fall 2008, but the summer flooding that year delayed crucial research at the Coe College and University of Iowa libraries. Undaunted, a team of artists—the UI Theatre Department's Art Borrecca, playwright Lisa Schlesinger (a graduate of both the Writers' Workshop and the Playwright's Workshop),

and dramaturg Lisa DiFranza (a frequent partner of the IWP)—staged a preliminary reading on October 12, 2008, the 100th anniversary, in the Old Capitol Senate Chambers.

A year later, expanded and rewritten, "Leaner than Light: 12 Frames of Paul Engle" debuted to a full house on October 23 and 24, 2009, in Theatre B at the UI Theatre Building. The play is divided into twelve sections that follow Paul Engle's life from his childhood as the son of a Cedar Rapids horsetrader to his death at Chicago O'Hare Airport, on his way to Poland to receive a lifetime literary achievement award. His poetry, his influence on American letters and the teaching of writing, and his wife Hualing all feature prominently. Because the play was designed with an eye to touring it around the state, the staging features overhead video interviews with writers and poets who studied under Engle, audio of Engle reciting his own poetry, and only a few props.

The International Writing Program, the UI Theatre Department, and Humanities Iowa sought to create a piece of theater that would help the people of Iowa remember one of the state's most important sons, and we're proud to say that "Leaner than Light" is not only a fine testament to Paul Engle's legacy, but a means to advance that legacy, too.

Open World

September 9-19, 2009



For the fifth consecutive year, the IWP hosted a delegation of Russian writers sponsored by the Open World Cultural Leaders Program. Three writers, accompanied by a facilitator and an interpreter, spent one week in Iowa City and two days in Chicago. During their time in Iowa City, they read and discussed their work at both the International Literature Today class and the Translation Workshop. At the Translation Workshop, translator and Ugly Duckling Presse publisher Matvei Yankelevich, who translated poems by two of the participants, shared his process. The delegates also participated in a bilingual reading at Prairie Lights Books, and visited local sights including Kalona, Iowa (home to the largest Amish settlement west of the Mississippi River) and Mount Vernon, Iowa. In Chicago, they were guests of the University of Illinois at Chicago, where they read and discussed their work with Russian-language students. They also were featured readers at a literary salon attended by members of the local Russian-speaking community. The delegates rounded out their time in Chicago with visits to the Art Institute of Chicago and Lake Michigan, among other places.

Participants:

Maxim Amelin, poet, Moscow
Ekaterina Boyarskikh, poet, prose writer, Irkutsk
Natalia Klyuchareva, prose writer, poet, Moscow
Vladimir Andreyev, facilitator, Tula



The Life of Discovery

May 2009 China | October 2009 Iowa City

Transformation through travel has been a favorite topic for many writers. For the Life of Discovery participants, such literary excursions were a self-changing voyage which endowed them with an encompassing experience of the world as well as a deeper understanding of their home cultures. Launched by the IWP in cooperation with the Chinese Writers' Association, the Life of Discovery (LOD) exchange brought together writers and artists from the United States and from the minority ethnic communities in the western regions of mainland China. The first phase, in May 2009, comprised visits to the cities of Dunhuang, Xi'an, and Beijing. Delegates of both countries explored a variety of cultural and historical sites, including the Mogao Caves, Emperor Qin's Terracotta Army in Xi'an, and the postmodern 798 Art District in Beijing. These diverse cultural locales put the writers in contact with rich geographical and cultural landscapes, and breathed life into new writings produced during the proceedings.

It was in their collaborative projects that the participants could display the full palette of their artistic skills and practices. In Dunhuang, senior artists Edward Carey, Hu Xuewen, and Xi Chuan huddled together to develop the most fertile creative writing activities and to strengthen cooperation among the delegates across languages. Fulbright scholar Anne Wilson, who joined the delegation as a sculptor and visual artist, employed the Buddhist image of the lotus flower in a two-part art installation inspired by the group's travels in China. Filmmaker Steve Delahoyde worked vigorously to capture memorable images of the

exchange in preparation or a feature-length documentary film that is currently in production. After the first phase in May, each of the delegates submitted a piece of original writing glossing the journey from their personal perspectives. These texts were then translated into English and Chinese respectively, with the goal of transcending the language barrier and addressing a transnational readership. The second phase (October 11-25) brought eight of the Chinese delegates to the United States. The program began with a three-day session in Chicago, followed by further literary activities in Iowa City, Washington, D.C. and New York. As if to overcome his jetlag, Tibetan poet Cao Youyun stayed up well into the night, writing about 20 poems in his first few days in Iowa city. They the unforgettable moments of his sojourn, ranging from a group trip to Effigy Mounds to studying the antique collections of an Amish settlement. And Cao's literary energy was not unique among the Chinese delegates. Soon after their arrival the Chinese delegates attended an Art and Politics Workshop at the University of Chicago, where a provocative dialogue with students and scholars unfolded on matters concerning writing and ethnicity. In Iowa City, a translation workshop led by IWP editor Nataša Durovicová opened up conversations on humor, sexuality, narrative perspective, and the many complexities of the translation process itself. The program moved through an array of styles and techniques, including many experimental creative writing exercises such as a theatrical "exquisite corpse" game led by playwright and fiction writer Tang Ying, a poetry

workshop with IWP director, the poet and translator Christopher Merrill, several fiction-writing workshops led respectively by IWP Associate Director Hugh Ferrer and two distinguished members of the fall residency Ge Fei from China and and Dung Kai Cheung from Hong Kong. The writers reflected on classial literary-tropes such as landscape, subjectivity, and personal style in writing. Artist Anne Wilson presented two art installations, one of which was a work made with materials she had brought from China, and which were presented with a Chinese & English text-collage containing Google-generated translations of Whitman's poem, "I Hear America Singing."

The second half of this exchange developed the professional affiliations among the writers and a number of other literary and creative units on campus, such as the Iowa Writing Workshop, the Center for the Book, and the Translation workshop. On October 21, the program concluded with a bilingual reading of at Shambaugh House. In the audience were the emerita Professor Hualing Engle, other faculty and students.

Through collaboration and interactive experiments, the LOD program produced distinct and unique results. The poetry and prose penned in its course have been translated into Chinese and English. A special bilingual issue of a national journal, Yellow River Literature, appeared in China; a number of the texts will also be published in IWP's online journal 91st Meridian. Future projects include a printed booklet, a website, and an accompanying

This journey itself, a poem
Is claimed by many flags of love
Fluttering, facing the wind, for you,
every one of you

---"Gift", by Nie Le, Gelao ethnic group.

film featuring among other issues also a sample of exercises and responses by various authors that could be deployed in creative writing practices in China and the US. The program also anticipates that communication among delegates will continue, whether through web conferences or other collaborative activities. Participants in the 2009 session of Life of Discovery were:

USA:
Edward Carey (Fiction Writer, Senior Artist, Britain)
Leslie Jamison (Fiction Writer)
David Chan (Fiction Writer)
Steve Delahoyde (Filmmaker)
Kiki Petrosino (Poet)
Shin Yu Pai (Poet, And Creative Artist)
Anne Wilson (Sculptor)

China:
XI Chuan (poet, senior artist)
CAO Youyun (Tibetan ethnicity, poet)
GUO Wenbin (Han nationality, fiction writer)
HU Xuewen (Han nationality, fiction writer)
JIN Renshun (Korean ethnicity, fiction writer)
LI Hui (Yi ethnicity, poet)
NIE le (Gelao ethnicity, poet)
WANG Hua (Wa ethnicity, fiction writer)
WANG Hong (Han nationality, filmmaker)
WU Xinwei (CWA coordinator)

Tunisia & Morocco Reading Tour

Tunis, between April 24th and April 27th

Morocco, between May 3rd and May 6th, following the 2009 Souk Ukaz.

On the first of two IWP summer reading tours, four notable American writers traveled to cities in Tunisia and Morocco, an extension of programming that in previous years toured the Mediterranean and countries across the Middle East, funded by a grant from the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. The IWP group broke literary ground at each of the stops, breaking bread with local aficionados of letters and culture. The group was, for instance, the first ever English speaking delegation to read at the Tunis International Book Fair, an event followed by book-signing and encounters with fairgoers at the American table. Other events included interactions with local press; a visit with a Tunisian publisher; a reception at the Ambassador's residence; and several readings and lively conversations with large groups of students of English and Translation Studies from four regional universities. Between professional meetings, the writers toured the Tunisian capital, the Roman excavations at Carthage, and the Great Kairouan Mosque.

The writers also met virtually with a group of colleagues from Sarajevo for a digital video conference (DVC). The topic of this DVC extended the theme of "Writing in and Beyond the City," a subject of prime importance to the Bosnian writers, all of whom had lived through the longest urban siege in modern history (1992-1996). The reading tour thus concluded framed by impressions of two extremes that may be the fate of any city: the destruction and resurrection of Sarajevo juxtaposed with the arduously preserved "Sacred City of Fes."

2009 Tunis Reading and Lecture Tour Participants:

Katie Ford
(poet, professor at Franklin and Marshall College; USA)

Barbara Ras
(poet, director of Trinity University Press; USA)

Mustapha Tlili
(fiction writer, director of Center for Dialogues; USA)

Eliot Weinberger
(poet, translator, critic; USA)

Christopher Merrill
(poet, director of the International Writing Program; USA)



Sarajevo Video Conference Participants:

Adisa Bašić
(poet, journalist; Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Ahmed Burić
(journalist, editor, translator, short fiction writer and poet; Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Ferida Duraković
(poet, Secretary of the PEN center of Bosnia-Herzegovina; Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Director Haris Pašović
(director; professor at the Performing Arts Academy in Sarajevo; Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Zvonimir Radeljković
(scholar, translator; professor at the University of Sarajevo; Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Souk Ukaz 2009 Writing in & Beyond the City

April 28 -- May 2, 2009



Has the inherent bias of writers favoring dense urban forms meant that literature has increasingly left behind the peripheral and sparsely populated regions, perhaps even nature itself? With populations tipping in favor of cities over rural areas for the first time in recorded history, how has, and how should literature respond?

This was the question posed to the participants gathered for the IWP's 2010 symposium "Souk Ukaz," Arabic for "market of ideas." As an extension to the successful "New Symposium," which met for three years on the island of Paros (Greece), this year's exchange was set for the first time in the Moroccan cities of Fes, a UNESCO world heritage city, and Africa's largest port city, Casablanca.

The participants gathered at this marketplace included American, international, and local writers – in all, 14 writers representing Argentina, Cyprus, Greece, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco, Poland, Slovakia, Tunisia, and the United States. In no short supply of experiences and material for inspiration, participants alternated between small-group discussions and excursions in and around these two vastly different Moroccan cities. Walking tours, cultural introductions, and first-hand participation in Moroccan life provided a solid ground for debates about literature's ability to confront, understand and represent today's vast and complex urban formations. .

The Souk Ukaz was organized by the IWP, and funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of

State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.

For a look inside the discussions of the Souk Ukaz, the papers can be found online at: <http://iwp.uiowa.edu/projects/SoukUkaz/2009Morocco.html>

Souk Ukaz Participants:

Krzysztof Czyzewski (poet, essayist; Poland)
Katie Ford (poet; USA)
Carlos Gamerro (fiction writer, translator; Argentina)
Michal Hvorecký (fiction writer, playwright; Slovakia)
Roseanne Saad Khalaf (fiction writer, editor; Lebanon)
Gürgenç Korkmazel (poet, translator; editor; Cyprus)
Barbara Ras (poet; USA).
Alberto Ruy-Sánchez (fiction writer, poet, essayist; Mexico)
Faouzi Skali (essayist; Morocco)
Mustapha Tlili (fiction writer; Tunisia/USA)
Anastassis Vistonitis (poet, essayist, fiction writer; Greece)
Eliot Weinberger (essayist, translator; USA)
Kyoko Yoshida (fiction writer, translator; Japan)



East Africa | Kenya Reading Tour

June 9th -- 18th, 2009

In June, the IWP led a delegation of four American writers on a reading tour of Kenya. Although the delegation stayed within the borders of Kenya itself, the tour served the large population of Somalians living in the country, a circumstance which made this tour of one country feel more like two.

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, the group met with students and faculty at the University of Nairobi, Kenyatta University and the Aga Khan University; with Somali writers and editors in the Eastleigh district of Nairobi; and with community organizers in the city's sprawling Kibera district. They then spent several days conducting writing workshops in three UNHCR Somali refugee camps in Dadaab.

Located on the Somali border, Dadaab is the world's largest refugee camp with more than 275,000 people. The delegation toured the camp's food distribution center, and the registration system, which sees 5,000 incoming refugees each month. In their 2 1/2 days in the camps, the IWP group held five creative writing workshops, working with nearly 200 students and 13 teachers. Honing in on the most effective prompts, the instructors structured these sessions so that students could write freely, on topics ranging from autobiographies, through a 'best or worst day' exercise, to writing about a dream. For a sample of their stories, please go to http://iwp.uiowa.edu/reading_abroad/kenya/2009kenyanarratives.html

The IWP also donated some 75 books to the camps, ranging from classic Dover Editions of Emily

Dickinson and Walt Whitman to the delegates' own work.

East Africa Reading Tour Participants

Dana Johnson (fiction writer)
Tom Sleigh (poet)
Terese Svoboda (poet, novelist, fiction writer)
Eliot Weinberger (essayist, translator)
Christopher Merrill (poet, essayist)

Unlike any other occupation, to be a writer all you need is a pencil and a piece of paper.
--Tom Sleigh to the students



Between the Lines

July 5th -- 18th, 2009
Iowa City, IA



This year's session of Between the Lines may have been our second, but it was the first to take place in the environment for which it was originally designed.

With funding from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the US Department of State, twelve students (ages 15-19) and four chaperones from across the Middle East came to the University of Iowa campus to study creative writing (in both English and Arabic) and interact with their American peers through our partner program, the Iowa Young Writers' Studio. Unlike last year, where the students were largely isolated from other young American writers, this group – representing Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and Syria – worked, lived, and dined alongside them.

Some of the highlights of the program included a literature salon in which the students discussed their favorite Arabic-language authors and works, performances at two student talent shows, and trips to a local bowling alley and a movie theater to see the premiere of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. One mark of the success of this program can be found in the student evaluations: The most common answer to the question "How can we make Between the Lines better for future participants?" was "Extend it to three weeks."

Participants:
(all funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the US Department of State)

Bana Aassy (student, Tel Aviv)
Ahmad Ezery (student, Tel Aviv)
Nael Roby (student, Tel Aviv)
Irene Ghattas (student, Jerusalem)
Majd Iwidat (student, Jerusalem)
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Nadia Tellawi (chaperone, Amman)

A Celebration of Hualing Nieh Engle

October 2009



In October of 2009, close to a hundred colleagues, family members and friends from across the nation, the UI and the Iowa City communities gathered to celebrate the 85th birthday of IWP co-founder Hualing Nieh Engle. Their presence and their speeches offered a testament to Professor Engle's lifetime accomplishments, literary achievements, and legendary open arms.

Mrs. Engle was born Nieh Hualing in Hubei, China. As a youth, she lived in the shadows of the Sino-Japanese and Chinese civil wars. In 1948, Hualing graduated with a degree in English from the Western Languages Department of the National Central University. In late 1940s, following the totalitarian turn in the People's Republic, she and her family settled in Taiwan. There, she served as a literary editor and editorial board member of the important cultural fortnightly *Free China*, until her critical vision earned her years of house arrest. She was also the first faculty member to teach creative writing in Chinese at Taipei's two major universities, National Taiwan and Tung-hai. During this span of 15 years, Nieh Hualing also published a novel, several short story collections, translated American and British literature into the Chinese, and met her future husband Paul Engle, then director of the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop. In 1964 she accepted an invitation to attend the Iowa Writers' Workshop, where she earned an MFA.

Over a half-century-long distinguished literary career divided across two continents, Nieh Hualing has worked with tenacity and grace to widen the crossroads of international writing and cultural

exchange. In 1967, Paul and she co-founded the International Writing Program (IWP) with the intent to create connections among the world's writers, so as to heighten understanding across borders as well as to provide an opportunity for international writers to encounter the American approach to creative practices. Thanks to the vision and care of the Engles, sustained throughout by the US Department of State and the University of Iowa, during the IWP's 42 years of programming more than 1,200 writers from over 120 countries have shared in an ongoing dialogue, friendships, and collaborations. Under their guidance the IWP grew into a world-class residency for literary artists.

With more than twenty volumes to her credit, Mrs. Engle has been praised both in China and in the U.S. for the way her work draws strength from two distinct literary traditions. The many honors and awards, both international and local, attest to the value placed on her effort. The countless discussions and collaborations that her writing and her leadership have made possible form a legacy that has shaped the world literature of our time.

Program Support

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Chinese Writers' Association

& CWA DunHuang, Xi'an, Shanghai

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The Burma Project of the Open Society Institute, New York, NY
The Centre for Applied English Studies at the University of Hong Kong
Chicago Humanities Festival, Chicago, IL
Chinese Writers Association
City of Asylum/Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
Creative New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand
Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature, Scotland
German Heritage Society, Bettendorf, IA
The Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, Cedar Rapids, IA
The Hong Kong Research Grants Council, Hong Kong
The Iowa City Chinese Community
Korea Literature Translation Institute, Seoul, Korea
The Max Kade Foundation, New York, NY
Open World Leadership Center, Washington, DC
The United States-Israel Education Foundation, Tel Aviv, Israel
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Wordstock Festival, Portland, OR

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The Island Institute, Sitka, AK: Co-director Carolyn Servid
New Orleans Citizen Diplomacy Council, New Orleans, LA
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International Women's English Classes, First Mennonite Church, Iowa City

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Corrections

The recognition extended to those listed in this honor roll is one small way to thank contributors. Every effort has been made to ensure that this honor roll is accurate. If your name has been omitted or misspelled, we apologize. Please contact the UI Foundation with any questions or corrections.

Thank you.

