

WAVE

**iwp**  
International  
Writing Program

2010 Annual Report



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Honor Roll of Contributors to the IWP

# Thirteen Ways of Looking at America

FROM A CAR, through a world that's turned to corn, red barns,  
huge machinery, and a church that says "Read the Bible, it will  
scare the hell out of you!"

FROM THE BANKS of the Iowa River, where a snake comes out of  
the grass like a belt, testing the air with its buckle-tongue

FROM THE MARK TWAIN DINER with a Mark Twain Burger  
and a Mark Twain cup of tea

FROM ANOTHER CAR, Chicago's stickleback in the rear view and  
the Lake's blue lung swollen with fishing boats, hauling their nets

FROM SPACE, as in the installation by Aaron Koblin in the Museum  
of Modern Art that shows air traffic over the United States as  
coloured lights, a slow firework spraying in and out during the day,  
careful and beautiful

FROM A TOUR BOAT IN CHICAGO, where the not-half-decent  
docent tells us that this building has one hundred and ninety eight  
floors, including parking, and was designed by, you guessed it,  
Merrill, Owings and Skidmore

FROM THE BOOTH of a bar with a sign that says, "I'm Irish, what's  
your excuse?"

IN A NIGHTCLUB, where you happen upon the Iowa State Drag  
Queen championships, arms outstretched with dollar bills. This  
you did not expect

AMERICA IS STANDING in a room with Pocahontas, Wurzel  
Gummidge, a bedbug and at least three Chilean miners. Halloween,  
in New York City at least, is no longer about darkness and all about  
just having fun. Something about this disturbs you

I LOVE the way in America the planes fly so low you can really see  
the fall colours and the cities cut like circuit boards

I LOVE the mechanics and labour of your hand-towel dispensing units.  
That lever does for me again and again

I LOVE that even in the cold the sky is blue, the sun is out, the air is  
crisp and clear

OH MY AMERICA, my new found land, where the poems are as long  
as the highways, and there is no such thing as a short story

MICHAEL MCKIMM

"Thirteen Ways of Looking at America" was set in Rialto type and printed in an edition  
of 100 copies to commemorate the Fall Residency at the International Writing Program.  
Mr. McKimm's participation in the IWP was supported by the British Council.  
EMPYREAN PRESS, IOWA CITY • NOVEMBER 2010

## From the Director

A letter from IWP director Christopher Merrill



Paul and Hualing Engle conceived of the International Writing Program (IWP) as a nine-month residency to mirror the university calendar. That was in 1967. After a few Iowa winters, which challenges even the world's most imaginative writers, the residency was trimmed to fit the region's three most beautiful months, in the fall. For decades the IWP's activities were concentrated in those spectacular weeks between the end of summer and Thanksgiving. In the last five years, though, our programming calendar has steadily expanded; now it seems that not a month goes by without an exchange or class taking place.

This past July, for example, the IWP was engaged in projects with more than 50 people from 18 countries: final essays from reading and lecture tours across Israel and Morocco were being readied for online publication (*Souk Ukaz*); American writers were returning from China and their two-way collaborations with Chinese minority writers (*Life of Discovery*); a doctor from Haiti was on campus to study "Writing as Recovery" to help with earthquake victims (*Patient Voice: Haiti*); 12 students from the Arab world were also on campus for a two-week English and Arabic writing program co-hosted by the Iowa Young Writers' Studio (*Between the Lines*); and six IWP alumni were uploading video projects in conjunction with the rebirth of an IWP publication project from the early 1990s (*100 Words*). Meanwhile, the IWP received word that it was to be honored by the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy as one of

America's top arts organizations for best international cultural engagement practices.

The fall residency remains the foundation of all the programs at the IWP, and the 43<sup>rd</sup> installment of what we like to call the United Nations of Writers was a particularly fruitful session, with 38 writers from 32 countries producing more than 2,000 pages of work and traveling to 23 states. But the most lasting impression of the past year may be that in 2010 the IWP became truly year-round.

Already, 2011 promises a schedule just as broad and exciting. We hope to see you at some of our events.

Sincerely,



Christopher Merrill  
Director

# Global Citizen Diplomacy Initiative and Summit

## November 16th–19th



In late July, the IWP was honored by the U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy as one of 14 U.S. arts organizations with best international cultural engagement practices. The Center is a government-private partnership whose goal is to promote direct contacts between U.S. and other citizens in a range of civic affairs. The 2010 Summit recognized a broad spectrum of activities that constitute citizen diplomacy, and a range of organizations “contributing to peace and security, stability, economic development, human rights, justice, and mutual understanding and respect” as part of their 10-year initiative to double the number of American volunteers involved in international activities both at home and abroad.

The recognition ceremonies took place in Washington D.C. on November 16–19. In addition to a series of distinguished plenary speakers from a range of global organizations, the three-day summit was filled with panels, workshops and award presentations, culminating in a visit to the U.S. Department of State. The IWP displayed its publications and publicity materials during the engagement presentations, which provided an informal opportunity for conversations with many similar arts organizations. More prominently, the program’s work was featured in a 20-minute film compilation prepared for the Wednesday afternoon panel on “International Cultural Engagement.” Here the IWP was the only literary institution to share the spotlight with the likes of the Smithsonian Institute’s Center for Folklife, the Silk Road project, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and the Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre. In front of a packed crowd, speakers representing these ‘best practices’ arts organizations presented their programming philosophies and evaluation strategies, IWP’s Director Christopher Merrill among them.

{ *"(After IWP) I feel like I've just found a new key in my pocket. All I need is to match an appropriate lock." – Alan Cherchesov*





## The Fall Residency

August 28th–November 16th



From nations as diverse as Chile and Nigeria, Iceland and Indonesia, Egypt and Bangladesh, writers participating in the 2010 Fall Residency found “a room of one’s own, in a community of writers.”

In its 43<sup>rd</sup> year, the IWP Fall Residency continued to welcome new literary cultures to Iowa City. While building on long-standing relationships with writers from India, China, Poland, Argentina and the Philippines, the 2010 Residency also welcomed literary representatives from three countries for the first time: Mauritius, Djibouti and Belarus. In all, 38 writers from 32 countries took up residence for ten weeks in this City of Literature, forming bonds deep in a Midwest steeped in American literary heritage, and a city that has sat at the crossroads of international letters for over 40 years.

Arriving in late August, participants soon found themselves in the middle of a friendly whirlwind of events. They interacted with students, faculty, and community members from across the UI campus, the state of Iowa, and throughout the United States. These activities included readings, panels, radio interviews, presentations, performances and film screenings; dinners in the homes of IWP supporters; and numerous invitations to universities and literary festivals throughout the country. In total, writers in residence engaged audiences at more than 100 events in 37 cities across 23 states. They wrote more than 2,000 pages of prose and poetry, translated *The Tempest* into Icelandic and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* into Kyrgyz, and produced a 30-minute documentary on their time in the program; and, as they put it, all “with the companionship of the world.”



## Field Trips, Receptions, and Cultural Events

### 8.28

Residency Begins

### 8.29

Nature Hike at Redbird Farms

Landlocked Film Festival

### 8.30

IWP course "International Literature Today" commences

Opening Party

### 9.3

Friday "Iowa City Public Library Panel Lecture Series" commences

Friday evening "Shambaugh House Reading Series" commences

### 9.4

MFA Programs Reception at the Englert Theatre

### 9.5

Sunday afternoon "Prairie Lights Reading Series" commences

### 9.6

Trip to Lake Macbride

### 9.7

Iowa Public Radio interviews on "The Exchange"

### 9.8

Wednesday evening "Cinemathèque" film screenings commence

### 9.9

Reading by Irish poets Seamus Cashman and Jill McBreen

### 9.10

Appearance on radio program "WorldCanvass"

### 9.11

Trip to Tri-State Rodeo

### 9.15

Text and Context : Publishing in the U.S.

### 9.20

CIVIC Dinner

### 9.23

Text and Context : Regional Literatures

### 9.25

Trip to Amish community in Kalona, Iowa

### 9.27 – 10.1

Group trips to San Francisco, New Orleans, Cody (WY), and Portland (OR)

## Field Trips, Receptions, and Cultural Events

### 10.9

Trip to Effigy Mounds  
Party hosted by Michael & Masae Judge

### 10.12

Paul Engle Memorial Reading by Ida Cordelia  
Beam Distinguished Visiting Professor Horacio  
Castellanos Moya

### 10.15

Works in Progress Festival

### 10.16

Global Express

### 10.21

Reading by James Tate

### 10.22 – 10.24

Chicago Weekend

### 10.26

Hike around Coralville Reservoir

### 10.27

Text and Context: Writing in Crisis

### 10.28

US Bank Reception

### 10.31

Harvest Party at Dane Farm

### 11.2

MFA in Translation Reading

### 11.3

NonfictionNow Conference

### 11.4

“It Gets Better” Reading

### 11.5

Meetings with literary agent

### 11.6

Trip to Des Moines Science Center

### 11.7

Closing Party at Englert Theatre

### 11.10

Trip to Washington D.C.  
University of Iowa Alumni Association Reception

### 11.11

Reading by Reza Aslan at Politics and Prose

### 11.12

CityDance Performance



### 11.13

Trip to New York City

### 11.14

Reading with U.K. literary journal *Granta*

### 11.16

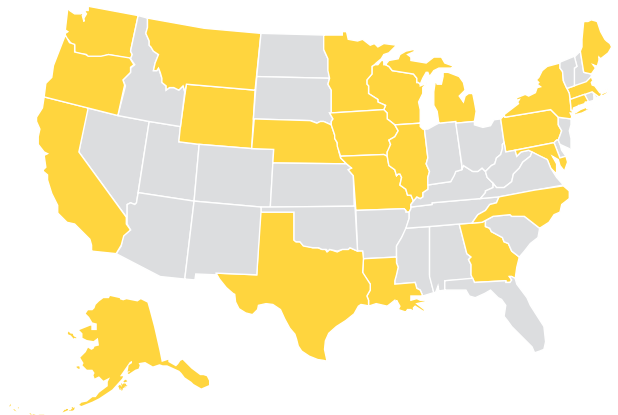
Departure/End of Residency

### Other Visits

San Francisco State University  
University of California-Riverside  
Yale University  
University of Georgia  
Cornell College  
Grinnell College  
Buena Vista University  
Coe College  
Scott Community College  
Iowa State University  
University of Chicago  
Tulane University  
University of New Orleans  
Harvard University  
Wellesley College  
University of Massachusetts-Amherst  
University of Michigan  
University of Minnesota  
Creighton University  
New York University

Columbia University  
Pacific Northwest College of Art  
Seton Hall University  
Haverford College  
University of Texas at Austin  
University of Wisconsin  
Viterbo University

The Island Institute, Sitka (AK)  
Anthology Reading Series, Iowa City  
Senior College, Iowa City  
Portland Stage Company, Portland (ME)  
African Literature Conference, Minneapolis  
Mark Twain Museum, Hannibal (MO)  
Brooklyn Book Festival  
Wordstock Literary Festival, Portland (OR)  
City of Asylum/Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh Jazz Poetry Festival



## 2010 Fall Residency Activities

Organized by writer

### **Ghada Abdel Aal** (*Egypt*)

- 9.20 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 9.21 Presentation, Images of the Muslim World
- 9.24 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library:  
“Why I Write the Way I Write”
- 10.6 Presentation, Iowa Writers’ Workshop  
seminar
- 10.15 Presentation, Topics in Spanish-American  
Literature class
- 10.16 Play staged at Global Express
- 10.21 Presentation, World Events in Historical  
Context class, UI
- 10.25 Reading and discussion, Scott Community  
College
- 10.28 Reading and lecture, University of Texas  
at Austin
- 11.3 Reading and lecture, Grinnell College
- 11.7 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 11.8 Appearance on “The Exchange,” WSUI-AM

#### *Other Accomplishments*

Finished two and a half chapters, or approximately  
40 pages of prose.  
15 pages of her work was translated into English.  
Her book *I Want To Get Married!* was published by  
University of Texas Press in October.

### **Hinemoana Baker** (*New Zealand*)

- 9.7 Appearance on “The Exchange,” WSUI-AM
- 9.10 Reading, Seton Hall University
- 9.11 Participation in Pittsburgh Jazz Poetry  
Festival
- 10.15 Presentation, Public Space 1 Panel:  
“Works in Progress”
- 11.4 Reading, “It Gets Better”
- 11.5 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series

#### *Other Accomplishments*

Interviewed and read on Pittsburgh radio station  
WYEP.

Interviewed for the online magazine Sampsonia

Way, run by the City of Asylum/Pittsburgh

Made dozens of sound recordings for future projects.

### **Ismail Bala** (*Nigeria*)

- 9.10 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library:  
“A Sense of Place”
- 9.10 Appearance on “WorldCanvass” radio  
program “Documenting Humanity”
- 9.19 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 10.4 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.11 Appearance at African Studies Reception
- 10.14 Reading and discussion, Senior College,  
Johnson County Senior Center





- 10.16 Play staged at Global Express
- 11.1 Reading and lecture, Haverford College
- 11.12 Collaboration with CityDance Ensemble in Washington D.C.

*Other Accomplishments*

Finished his first collection of poetry during the residency.

**Amilcar Bettega (Brazil)**

- 9.3 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- 9.23 Reading, Hispanic Culture Language-Learning-Living Community
- 10.18 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.26 Reading, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese

*Other Accomplishments*

Wrote 30 pages of prose during his residency. Eighteen pages of his work was translated into English, as well.

**Miłosz Biedrzycki (Poland)**

- 9.3 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Writing Across Languages"
- 9.7 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 9.12 Panel, Brooklyn Book Festival
- 10.4 Presentation, International Literature Today

- 10.14 Reading and discussion, Senior College, Johnson County Senior Center
- 10.26 Reading and lecture, Viterbo University
- 11.2 Reading, University of California-Riverside
- 11.5 Reading, Anthology Series

*Other Accomplishments*

Translated 30 pages of work during his residency.

**Ian Rosales Casocot (Philippines)**

- 9.10 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "A Sense of Place"
- 9.10 Appearance on "WorldCanvass" radio program "Documenting Humanity"
- 9.26 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 11.4 Reading, "It Gets Better"
- 11.8 Presentation, International Literature Today

*Other Accomplishments*

Wrote four short stories for his upcoming collection, around 10,000 words each.

Wrote the first two chapters of his second novel, and several essays.

**Alan Cheresov (Russia)**

- 9.7 Appearance on "The Exchange," WSUI-AM
- 9.14 Reading and lecture, Cornell College

## 2010 Fall Residency Activities, by writer

- 9.17 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- 9.20 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 9. 24 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library:  
“Why I Write the Way I Write”
- 10.20 IWP Cinemathèque Screening of *The Return*
- 10.22 Presentation, Cinemathèque First Year  
Seminar course

### *Other Accomplishments*

Visited the University of New Orleans and Tulane  
University during Mid-Residency travel period.  
Finished his fourth novel during the residency.

### **Cho Yong Mee** (*South Korea*)

- 9.24 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library:  
“Why I Write the Way I Write”
- 10.29 Reading, UI Main Library

### **Chandahas Choudhury** (*India*)

- 8.30 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 9.19 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 9.23 Reading and discussion, Senior College,  
Johnson County Senior Center
- 9.30 Reading, Book Passage bookstore in San  
Francisco
- 10.8 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library:  
“The Classic: Dead or Alive?”

### *Other Accomplishments*

Wrote 50 pages of prose.

### **Najwan Darwish** (*Palestine*)

- 10.10 Reading, Anthology Series
- 10.17 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library:  
“Satire, Wit, Comedy”
- 10.23 Presentation, World Events in Historical  
Context class, UI
- 10.3 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 10.16 Play staged at Global Express
- 10.18 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.18 Reading and discussion, People for Justice  
in Palestine
- 10.21 Reading and discussion, Senior College,  
Johnson County Senior Center

### *Other Accomplishments*

10 pages of poetry and prose translated in  
International Translation Workshop.

### **Laura Fish** (*England*)

- 9.10 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: “A  
Sense of Place”
- 9.10 Appearance on “WorldCanvass” radio  
program “Documenting Humanity”
- 9.12 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 9.13 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.1 Reading and presentation, Wordstock  
Literary Festival in Portland
- 10.16 Play staged at Global Express
- 10.18 Reading and lecture, Wellesley College



#### *Other Accomplishments*

Revised her forthcoming novel during the residency.

- 10.15 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- 10.27 Reading and lecture, Grinnell College

#### **Ofir Touche Gafila (Israel)**

- 9.14 Presentation, Spanish creative writing class
- 9.20 Presentation, Topics in Spanish American Literature class
- 9.23 Reading and discussion, Senior College, Johnson County Senior Center
- 10.11 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.15 Presentation, Public Space 1: "Works in Progress"
- 11.3 Presentation, Iowa Writers' Workshop Seminar
- 11.5 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series

#### *Other Accomplishments*

Wrote the first 20,000 words of his next novel.  
Translated a short story from Hebrew into English for Words Without Borders online magazine.

#### **Gonzalo Garcés (Argentina/Chile)**

- 10.6 Presentation, Iowa Writers' Workshop seminar
- 10.11 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.14 Presentation, Spanish creative writing panel
- 10.15 Presentation, Public Space 1: "Works in Progress"
- 10.15 Reading, Works-in-Progress Festival

Wrote 40 pages of prose during the residency.  
17 pages of his novel in progress, *El Plan*, was translated into English.

#### **David Hill (New Zealand)**

- 9.14 Presentation, Spanish creative writing class
- 9.17 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Satire, Wit, Comedy"
- 9.20 Presentation, Topics in Spanish-American Literature class
- 10.28 Reading and lecture, Coralville North Junior High School
- 11.2 Reading, Buena Vista University
- 11.7 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 11.8 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 11.12 Collaboration with CityDance Ensemble in Washington D.C.

#### *Other Accomplishments*

Wrote 200 pages of prose during the residency.  
Wrote one poem, which has been accepted for publication by a literary magazine.

#### **Andrea Hirata (Indonesia)**

- 9.3 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Writing Across Languages"



## 2010 Fall Residency Activities, by writer

- 9.22 IWP Cinemathèque screening of *Rainbow Troops*
- 9.24 Presentation, Cinemathèque First Year Seminar course
- 9.27 Film screening, *Rainbow Troops* at Embassy event in San Francisco
- 9.30 Second screening of *Rainbow Troops* for the Embassy in San Francisco
- 10.3 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 10.4 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 11.4 Reading and presentation, Indonesian Embassy in Washington, D.C.
- 11.5 Film Screening, *Rainbow Troops* at Sackler Gallery in D.C.
- 11.8 Film Screening, *Rainbow Troops* in New York City
- 11.12 Collaboration with CityDance Ensemble in Washington, D.C.

### *Other Accomplishments*

Finished writing a novel entitled *Two Trees*, and one short story; overall, around 250 pages of prose. Had three pages of his fiction translated into English. Published a short story, translated in International Translation Workshop, in *Washington Square*.

### **Hon Lai Chu** (*Hong Kong*)

- 10.7 Presentation, Political Science class
- 10.18 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.29 Reading, UI Main Library

### **Anisul Hoque** (*Bangladesh*)

- 10.13 IWP Cinemathèque screening of *Third Person Singular*
- 10.15 Presentation, Cinemathèque First Year Seminar course
- 10.17 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 10.29 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Why I Write the Way I Write"
- 11.1 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 11.12 Collaboration with CityDance Ensemble in Washington D.C.

### *Other Accomplishments*

Wrote 100 pages of prose, and 5 poems during the residency. Wrote the script for four television episodes, and the script for a full-length feature film. 10 pages of his work was translated into English.

### **Jin Renshun** (*China*)

- 10.6 Presentation, Iowa Writers' Workshop Seminar
- 10.6 IWP Cinemathèque screening of *Green Tea*
- 10.8 Presentation, Cinemathèque First Year Seminar course
- 10.8 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- 10.25 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 11.12 Collaboration with CityDance Ensemble in Washington D.C.



#### *Other Accomplishments*

Wrote 20 pages of prose during the residency.  
Had 5 pages of her work translated into English.  
Visited Iowa State University.

#### **Billy Kahora** (*Kenya*)

- 9.5 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 9.13 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 9.15 IWP Cinemathèque screening of *Soul Boy*
- 9.17 Presentation, Cinemathèque First Year Seminar course
- 10.8 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "The Classic: Dead or Alive?"
- 10.9 Panel, African Literature Festival, Minneapolis
- 10.11 Appearance at African Studies Reception
- 10.15 Reading and lecture, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
- 10.25 Reading, University of Georgia
- 11.4 Presentation, NonfictionNow Conference
- 11.8 Appearance on "The Exchange," WSUI-AM
- 11.14 Reading, with *Granta* magazine at BookCourt in New York

#### *Other Accomplishments*

Co-edited next issue of *Kwani?* with assistance from two Iowa City writers.

#### **Anja Kampmann** (*Germany*)

- 10.7 Reading and discussion, Senior College, Johnson County Senior Center
- 10.10 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 10.15 Presentation, Topics in Spanish-American Literature class
- 10.15 Presentation, Public Space 1 Panel: "Works in Progress"
- 11.1 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 11.3 Presentation, Iowa Writers' Workshop Seminar
- 11.12 Collaboration with CityDance Ensemble in Washington D.C.

#### *Other Accomplishments*

Wrote 110 pages of prose and 4 poems during the residency.  
Had 20 pages of her work translated into English, and translated 10 more on her own.

#### **Farhad A.K. Sulliman Khoyratty** (*Mauritius*)

- 9.17 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Satire, Wit, Comedy"
- 9.20 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 9.26 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 10.7 Reading and discussion, Senior College, Johnson County Senior Center
- 10.11 Appearance at African Studies Reception
- 11.4 Presentation, NonfictionNow Conference

## 2010 Fall Residency Activities, by writer

### *Other Accomplishments*

Wrote more than 200 pages of prose and five poems during the residency.

Translated 15 pages of poetry from Morisyê into English.

### **Kim Sa-in** (*South Korea*)

9.24 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library:  
“Why I Write the Way I Write”

10.8 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series

10.25 Presentation, International Literature Today

10.27 IWP Cinemathèque screening of *The Day a Pig Fell Into a Well*

10.29 Presentation, Cinemathèque First Year Seminar course

### *Other Accomplishments*

Wrote the first drafts of a number of poems.

Had three poems translated into English during the residency.

Visited the University of Michigan.

### **Christopher Kloeble** (*Germany*)

9.10 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series

9.20 Reading and lecture, University of Wisconsin

9.27 Reading and lecture, University of New Orleans

10.4 Reading and lecture, Grinnell College

10.18 Presentation, International Literature Today

10.21 Reading and lecture, University of Chicago

10.29 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library:  
“Why I Write the Way I Write”

11.3 Presentation, Iowa Writers’ Workshop seminar

11.8 Staged reading of play at Portland Stage Company

### *Other Accomplishments*

Wrote 50 pages of prose, and 50 pages of a play during the residency.

Had a 70-page play translated into English, and translated three pages on his own.

Visited the New York Theatre Workshop.

### **Turusbek Madilbay** (*Kyrgyzstan*)

9.10 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series

10.11 Presentation, International Literature Today

10.29 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library:  
“Why I Write the Way I Write”

### *Other Accomplishments*

Wrote two novels while at the residency.

Translated *The Adventures of Huckelberry Finn* into Kyrgyz.

Translation of material in International Translation Workshop.



**Maryia Martysevich** (*Belarus*)

- 8.30 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 9.5 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 9.10 Reading, Seton Hall University
- 9.11 Participation in Pittsburgh Jazz Poetry Festival
- 9.17 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Satire, Wit, Comedy"
- 10.25 Visit and appearance, University of Michigan
- 11.4 Reading and lecture, Harvard University

*Other Accomplishments*

Wrote six poems and two essays during the residency.

Translated 40 pages of prose into Belarusian for publication in magazines.

Translated three poems into English.

**Michael McKimm** (*Northern Ireland*)

- 10.17 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 10.25 Reading and lecture, Coe College
- 11.4 Reading, "It Gets Better"

*Other Accomplishments*

Wrote six poems during the residency, and 6 others translated into Spanish by Beverly Perez Rego.

Taught six-week Irish Poetry course.

**H.M. Naqvi** (*Pakistan*)

- 9.7 Appearance on "The Exchange," WSUI-AM
- 9.7 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 9.13 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.7 Presentation, World Events in Historical Context class, UI
- 10.14 Reading, Iowa Young Writers Living Learning Community
- 10.15 Presentation, Public Space 1: "Works in Progress"
- 10.16 Reading, Works-in-Progress Festival
- 10.16 Play staged at Global Express
- 11.3 Presentation, Iowa Writers' Workshop Seminar
- 11.5 Reading, Anthology Series
- 11.14 Reading, with *Granta* magazine at BookCourt in New York

*Other Accomplishments*

Nominated for the DSC Prize for Asian Literature during the residency.

Wrote the first 40 pages of a new novel.

**Khin Maung Nyo** (*Myanmar*)

- 9.24 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- 10.2 Lecture, Burmese American Democratic Alliance
- 10.7 Presentation, Political Science class
- 10.25 Presentation, International Literature Today



## 2010 Fall Residency Activities, by writer

- 10.29 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library:  
“Why I Write the Way I Write”
- 11.1 Reading and lecture, Scott Community College

### **O Thiam Chin** (*Singapore*)

- 9.13 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 9.17 Presentation, Topics in Transnational  
Literature class
- 10.10 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 10.11 Reading and lecture, Coe College
- 11.3 IWP Cinemathèque screening of *881*
- 11.4 Reading, “It Gets Better”
- 11.5 Presentation, Cinemathèque First Year  
Seminar course
- 11.12 Collaboration with CityDance Ensemble in  
Washington D.C.

#### *Other Accomplishments*

Produced a 30-minute IWP documentary:

<http://www.vimeo.com/16646770>

Ran in the New York City Marathon.

### **Pola Oloixarac** (*Argentina*)

- 9.3 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- 9.10 Reading and lecture, Harvard University
- 9.17 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library:  
“Satire, Wit, Comedy”
- 9.27 Reading and presentation, San Francisco  
State University

- 10.7 Presentation, Spanish creative writing class
- 10.11 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.14 Presentation, Spanish creative writing panel
- 11.8 Appearance on “The Exchange,” WSUI-AM
- 11.14 Reading, with *Granta* magazine at  
BookCourt in New York

#### *Other Accomplishments*

Named one of the Best Young Spanish Language  
Novelists by *Granta* Magazine during the  
residency.

10 pages of prose translated in International  
Translation Workshop.

### **Beverly Perez Rego** (*Venezuela*)

- 9.3 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library:  
“Writing Across Languages”
- 10.4 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.5 Presentation, Spanish creative writing class
- 10.13 Reading, Iowa Library Association
- 10.14 Presentation, Spanish creative writing panel
- 10.15 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- 10.16 Play staged at Global Express
- 10.21 Reading and discussion, Senior College,  
Johnson County Senior Center
- 10.26 Reading and lecture, Viterbo University
- 10.29 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 11.12 Collaboration with CityDance Ensemble in  
Washington D.C.



#### *Other Accomplishments*

Translated 6 poems by Michael McKimm into Spanish.

Poetry translated into English in International Translation Workshop.

#### **Edgar Samar (Philippines)**

- 9.12 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 10.8 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "The Classic: Dead or Alive?"
- 11.8 Presentation, International Literature Today

#### *Other Accomplishments*

Wrote 120 pages of prose during the residency, 10 poems, and the outline to his third novel.

#### **Albana Shala (Netherlands)**

- 9.10 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "A Sense of Place"
- 9.17 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- 10.18 Presentation, International Literature Today

#### *Other Accomplishments*

Five pages of poetry co-translated in International Translation Workshop.

#### **Farangis Siahpoor (Iran)**

- 9.8 IWP Cinemathèque screening of *Turtles Can Fly*
- 9.10 Presentation, Cinemathèque First Year Seminar course
- 10.1 Reading and presentation, Wordstock Literary Festival in Portland
- 10.4 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.8 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "The Classic: Dead or Alive?"
- 10.16 Play staged at Global Express
- 11.8 Staged reading of play at Portland Stage Company

#### **Sölvi Björn Sigurðsson (Iceland)**

- 9.3 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Writing Across Languages"
- 9.14 Reading and lecture, Cornell College
- 9.20 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 10.16 Play staged at Global Express
- 10.31 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 11.8 Staged reading of play at Portland Stage Company

#### *Other Accomplishments*

Finished the translation of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* into Icelandic.

Wrote 50 pages of prose during the residency, and translated 10 pages of his last novel into English.

## 2010 Fall Residency Activities, by writer

### **Chehem Watta** (*Djibouti*)

- 9.24 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- 10.11 Appearance, African Studies Reception
- 10.20 Reading and lecture, French/Italian Forum
- 10.29 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library:  
“Why I Write the Way I Write”
- 11.1 Presentation, International Literature Today
- 11.4 Presentation, NonfictionNow Conference

#### *Other Accomplishments*

Finished two books, and started a third, while at the residency.

Had at least 20 pages of prose and poetry translated in the International Translation Workshop.

### **Xu Zechen** (*China*)

- 10.6 Presentation, Iowa Writers’ Workshop seminar
- 10.8-15 Visit and appearance, Creighton University
- 10.31 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- 11.1 Presentation, International Literature Today

#### *Other Accomplishments*

Wrote 60 pages of prose during the residency.

Had a 15-page story translated in the International Translation Workshop.

### **Ying Feng-huang** (*Taiwan*)

- 11.8 Presentation, International Literature Today

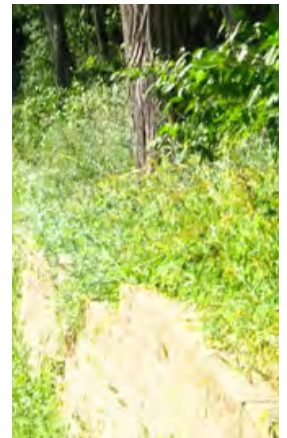
#### *Other Accomplishments*

Wrote 20 pages of prose during the residency.

Translated two poems by Kim Sa-in into Chinese.



*"Now that I have left, something about that landscape, and the Mississippi, is still tugging at me, and I have written more 'lowan' poems since I've been home."*  
– Michael McKimm



## Funding Agencies for IWP Participants

<b>Ghada Abdel Aal</b> Fiction Writer; Egypt	The U.S. Embassy in Cairo
<b>Hinemoana Baker</b> Poet; New Zealand	The Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State
<b>Ismail Bala</b> Poet; Nigeria	The Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State
<b>Amilcar Bettega</b> Fiction Writer, Translator; Brazil	The Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State
<b>Miłosz Biedrzycki</b> Poet, Translator; Poland	Polish Cultural Institute
<b>Ian Rosales Casocot</b> Fiction Writer; Philippines	The U.S. Embassy in Manila
<b>Alan Chermesov</b> Fiction Writer; Russia	William B. Quarton Foundation
<b>Cho Yong Mee</b> Poet, Essayist; South Korea	Korean Literature Translation Institute
<b>Chandrabhas Choudhury</b> Fiction Writer, Critic; India	The Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State
<b>Najwan Darwish</b> Poet, Critic; Palestine	The Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State



**Laura Fish**  
Fiction Writer; England

Private funding

**Ofir Touche Gafila**  
Fiction Writer; Israel

The U.S.-Israeli Education Foundation

**Gonzalo Garcés**  
Fiction Writer; Argentina/Chile

Co-Sponsored by The U.S. Embassy in Santiago

**David Hill**  
Children's Novelist; New Zealand

Creative New Zealand

**Andrea Hirata**  
Novelist; Indonesia

The U.S. Embassy in Jakarta

**Hon Lai Chu**  
Fiction Writer, Novelist; Hong Kong

The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation in Hong Kong

**Anisul Hoque**  
Fiction Writer, Playwright; Bangladesh

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

**Jin Renshun**  
Fiction Writer; China

Freeman Foundation

**Billy Kahora**  
Fiction Writer, Essayist; Kenya

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

**Anja Kampmann**  
Poet, Fiction Writer; Germany

The Max Kade Foundation

## Funding Agencies for IWP Participants

<b>Farhad A.K. Sulliman Khoyratty</b> Fiction Writer, Editor, Translator; Mauritius	The Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State
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<b>Kim Sa-in</b> Poet, Critic, Editor; South Korea	The Arts Council Korea
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<b>Christopher Kloeble</b> Playwright, Novelist; Germany	Private funding
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<b>Turusbek Madilbay</b> Novelist, Translator; Kyrgyzstan	The Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State
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<b>Maryia Martysevich</b> Poet, Essayist, Translator; Belarus	The Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State
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<b>Michael McKimm</b> Poet; Northern Ireland	The British Council
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<b>H.M. Naqvi</b> Fiction Writer; Pakistan	U.S. Consulate Karachi
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<b>Khin Maung Nyo</b> Fiction Writer, Translator; Myanmar	Independent funding
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<b>O Thiam Chin</b> Fiction Writer; Singapore	National Arts Council Singapore
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<b>Pola Oloixarac</b> Fiction Writer, Translator; Argentina	The Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State
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*"A room of one's own in a community of writers." – Billy Kahora*

<b>Beverly Perez Rego</b> Poet, Translator; Venezuela	The Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State
<b>Edgar Samar</b> Novelist, Poet; Philippines	The Freeman Foundation
<b>Albana Shala</b> Poet, Fiction Writer, Translator; Netherlands	Private funding
<b>Farangis Siahpoor</b> Filmmaker, Scriptwriter, Fiction Writer; Iran	The Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State
<b>Sölvi Björn Sigurðsson</b> Fiction Writer, Novelist, Poet, Translator; Iceland	The U.S. Embassy in Reykjavik
<b>Chehem Watta</b> Poet, Novelist, Fiction Writer; Djibouti	The Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State
<b>Xu Zechen</b> Novelist, Fiction Writer; China	The U.S. Embassy in Beijing
<b>Ying Feng-huang</b> Fiction Writer, Critic; Taiwan	Private funding



# The Life of Discovery: a U.S./China Exchange

May 16th–24th, June 24th–July 9th

The Life of Discovery program connected writers from the U.S. and China, transforming the participants through a combination of groundbreaking travel, creative exchange, and cultural engagement. Launched in 2008 by the IWP, in cooperation with the Chinese Writers' Association, the Life of Discovery (LOD) exchange was designed to bring together writers and artists from the United States and from minority ethnic communities in mainland China, building bridges between professional artists who might never otherwise influence one another. The idea: that the sheer opportunity to question each other, artistically, promotes mutual appreciation, and then trust. And once trust is established, an atmosphere of openness emerges, erasing strangeness and allowing fellow writers to collaborate.

LOD completed its second successful cycle of bilateral programming in 2010, with joint delegations traveling and working together in both countries. Led by a senior artist from each country, the joint delegations were comprised of four to eight writers of each nationality, and accompanied by at least one visual artist and filmmakers from both countries. During the 2010 cycle, the joint delegation began their collaborations first in the U.S., with literary activities centered in Iowa City, Washington D.C., and New York, and then later reunited in China to travel from Beijing to Kunming, with closing activities held at the World Expo in Shanghai. Portions of each day were

devoted to writing projects and creative sessions that drew inspiration from historical sites. Through trial and error, the program explored ways that writers from (at times widely) different cultures can interact in real time. With interpreters a constant presence, the joint delegations experimented with a wide array of creative writing exercises. Writers reflected upon and compared their approaches to classical literary tropes; debated the importance of subjectivity; wrestled with a single word or a set Chinese phrase; engaged in a theatrical version of the surrealist “exquisite corpse” game. Group readings and discussions of illuminating texts heightened understanding across cultures. The writers composed new work individually, in response to one another, and in collaboration. As a result they learned new aesthetic approaches, developed a more-encompassing vision of the world, and gained a deeper understanding of their home cultures.

Beyond the network of new professional relationships, these two cycles of LOD produced a substantial selection of concrete outcomes. The poetry and prose generated during the writing sessions 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 be published in IWP's online journal *91st Meridian*; and *Forklift, Ohio*, a U.S. literary journal, will be publishing selected entries from the project. In addition:



朝圣者离去  
He Xiaomei

知道这曾是一条繁忙的街道  
Had this not been a bustling road  
或曾也是一条繁忙的街道，但  
or had this been a bustling road, though  
不是朝圣者的心之径  
not the single path for pilgrims  
那么，我的凝视  
then my gaze  
就不会曾有一瞥瞥到那夜色  
would not have been a glimpse of the lingering nightlight,  
当黎明到来之前  
as dawn arrived  
驻足，停留  
halted loitering  
它就不会曾有过 那些在最后的秋天幸存的向日葵  
it would not have been the sunflowers that survived the last Fall

荒凉处有一低垂的头  
A drooping head in the wilderness, looking downcast  
那里不会曾有过  
there would not have been  
一场骤雨在冬至前  
a sudden storm on my way  
或 冬至后的萧瑟的冷  
or the waning chill after Winter Solstice  
我的凝视  
my gaze  
可能只是一辆一百年的马车  
might have been merely a chariot one hundred years old  
碾过石板路 碾过  
its aged wheels running over  
蓝色的石板路  
the blue limestone-plated road  
我的凝视  
my gaze  
可能只是一次窗帘的掀起  
might have been merely a light lifting of the curtain  
让那醉人的夜色透过  
letting the intoxicated twilight through  
是的 我的凝视不会如此复杂  
yes my gaze would not have been so intricate  
在这小车的马车的喧嚣中  
in this world of heavy traffic  
我和我的担心一起  
I & my worries should have  
被带进一个扩大的眼 一起  
been carried in a dilated eye together with  
那些  
those  
被他的身体庇护的土地  
lands that have been sheltered by his body

一首诗 郭国清 译 侯明 校稿

Translated by Li Guo. Edited by Courteney Kiki Petrosino.

Thirty-five copies of "The Exodus" were printed to mark the occasion of the Life of Discovery exchange, organized by the University of Iowa's International Writing Program and held in Beijing, Kunming, and Shanghai, China in June 2010. Special thanks to the Chinese Writers' Association and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, whose support made the exchange possible. The Chinese translation is by Guo Li, with editing by Kiki Petrosino.

IWP created a website ([lifeofdiscovery.com](http://lifeofdiscovery.com)) for the exchange, and an accompanying film which features a sample of the writing exercises and the responses from various authors about the creative writing practices in China and the US.

### Chinese Delegation:

Fan Jizu  
Han ethnicity; Fiction Writer

He Xiaomei  
Naxi ethnicity; Poet

Lu Qin  
Yi ethnicity; Poet

Yang Guoqing  
Qiang ethnicity; Poet

Zhang Gencui  
Dongxiang ethnicity; Fiction Writer

Liu Zhenyun  
Senior Artist

Peng Xueming  
Senior Artist

### American Delegation:

Vu Tran  
Fiction Writer

Matt Hart  
Poet

Kiki Petrosino  
Poet

Amanda Nadelberg  
Poet

Kyle Dargan  
Poet

Christopher Merrill  
Senior Artist







## Peace Work: Writers in e-Motion

April 18th–25th



The topic of the 2010 Peace Work tour could not have been more appropriate, nor the trip more dynamically centered. As an intended exercise on the perception and impact of travel itself, the Writers in e-Motion mandate was supplemented by some first-hand lessons from the long arm of an international disruption we couldn't have seen coming.

Days before the IWP-led delegates were to travel to their destinations, Eyjafjallajökull erupted in Iceland, causing havoc for travelers worldwide. Through considerable effort and the resourcefulness of several participants, the delegates arrived at their destinations set for activity and exploration, one group in Jerusalem and the other in Essaouira, Morocco. Colored early on by the trials and tribulations of their travel,

the group delivered their reflections and observations in near-real time on blogs and social media built to highlight each day of the trip.

The group traveling to Jerusalem spent a day touring the Old City along with local historians and cultural officials. They took in a dance performance at the Ramallah Cultural Palace, met with artists and community leaders, and shared a meal with prominent Palestinian cultural workers. On another day they explored Israeli cultural life by visiting important centers of culture and meeting and dining with prominent Israeli artists.

Simultaneously the group in Essaouira learned about regional history and agriculture by touring the Old City with a local historian and touring several women's cooperatives specializing in argon oil, herbs, and cheese. They also spent a day at a weekly rural market, a place where day laborers compete for work, farmers sell their goods, and village men socialize over tea. The group welcomed this interesting look into the daily life of village families.

The two groups then converged to discuss their travels and explore one last city, the UNESCO world heritage city of Fès. Each day in Fès the group gathered for two-hour joint sessions focused on issues in travel writing as a genre, as well as on how travel writing finds itself caught between journalism/reporting and impressionist sketching. In these discussions, the differences in perspective between some of the

## Peace Work: Writers in e-Motion



U.S. and the international participants became much clearer. The group took time to explore Fès with a prominent local guide, attended an event at the Sufi Cultural Festival, and broke off into smaller groups to shadow local community members; including a trip to a neighborhood *hammam* with local women; visiting a local property owner restoring one of the many old buildings within the city walls; a trip to the wholesale market with a cook, followed by a lesson in cooking tajine; and a visit to a Sufi village to meet with Sufi master Ibrahim Tijani.

The trip was followed by a number of readers on the program's blog (<http://uipeacework.wordpress.com>), the IWP's Facebook page, and was linked throughout to the participants' own websites. The final project, an e-book comprised of a 'travel diary' from the region, will feature the polished versions of the participants' travel blog entries, followed by a section of the writers' own comments on each other's pieces as a final collaborative effort.

### Participants:

Nukila Amal  
Fiction Writer, Editor and Translator; Indonesia

Jaka Babnik  
Filmmaker and Photographer; Slovenia

Karen Connelly  
Fiction and Nonfiction Writer, Poet; Canada

Josh Dick  
Photographer; USA

Dina Gudym  
Fiction Writer; Kazakhstan

Eddin Bu-Eng Khoo  
Journalist, Translator; Malaysia

Gary Nabhan  
Writer, Ethnobotanist, Conservation Activist, and Professor; USA

Mabrouck Rachedi  
Fiction Writer, Journalist and Essayist; France

Sarah Saffian  
Nonfiction Writer, Journalist, Teacher; USA

Ognjen Spahić  
Fiction Writer and Journalist; Montenegro

Carol Spindel  
Nonfiction Writer, Activist, and Professor; USA

## Patient Voices: Haiti

“Patient Voice” is the International Writing Program’s response to the epic-scale tragedy of the January 12, 2010 Haiti earthquake. The IWP collaborated with the Iowa Summer Writing Festival, and the Patient Voice program at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics to provide training in creative writing as therapy for a literary or health professional based in Haiti, contributing toward the healing process for survivors of the earthquake by the creation of a writing therapy group.

The IWP selected two accomplished literary professionals with expertise in this area to act as mentors and writing coaches: Cecile Goding, an instructor of creative writing at Mt. Mercy College in Cedar Rapids, a regular faculty at the Iowa Summer Writing Festival, and a nonfiction writer with long-standing expertise in the area of memoir writing with diverse populations; and Joyce Turner, a staff member at the Patient Voice Project with experience as a writing therapy coach.

Through contacts at the Boston-based NGO Partners in Health, which has extensive presence in Haiti, the IWP recruited Guesly Michel, a young Haitian psychologist, to serve as the on-the-ground writing therapy group leader in Haiti. Most recently, Mr. Michel has worked with PiH as a coordinator of therapy groups in a Port-au-Prince area refugee camp; he has also had training as a grief counselor.

Mr. Michel was brought to Iowa City for two weeks of coursework and training at the Iowa

Summer Writing Festival. During the first week, he attended Cecile Goding’s nonfiction workshop, “This Too is Life: Memoirs of Illness and Health.” Joyce Turner facilitated between Michel and Patient Voice Project staff and clients, bringing Guesly for a day-long trip to Des Moines to observe a therapy session with her patients.

The Iowa team also worked on assembling a reading packet for Mr. Michel, by locating appropriate literary materials (in French and Creole) in the UI library; translating writing handbooks into French so that he could share with potential colleagues; adapting texts in Creole from the IWP’s own archives; and preparing release forms necessary for any future publication of the therapy-generated materials.

Upon his return to Haiti, Mr. Michel established a series of writing-therapy groups. These group sessions met for 19 weeks, ending in December of 2010; 53 individuals participated. Michel worked with a variety of clients, both one-on-one and in group settings, in the refugee camps in the Port-au-Prince area.

## Between the Lines

July 11th–26th

For this year's Between the Lines, we stretched ourselves in several important directions.

Once again, twelve students (aged 16-19) traveled several thousand miles to study creative writing in both Arabic and English alongside their American peers at the Iowa Young Writers' Studio (IYWS). This year, with funding and support from the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, they came from as far west as Algeria and as far east as Oman. They came from Bahrain, Libya, Lebanon, the West Bank and Saudi Arabia. And for the first time, the Gaza region was represented, making the class of 2010 our most diverse yet.

The group was also closer than ever before with their American counterparts – this year as roommates in the University dormitory. They held an “Arabic 101” session for IYWS students, teaching them the Arabic alphabet and key words and phrases. They participated in an International Literature Salon, where students discussed their favorite books from around the world. They took part in writing exercises in and around Iowa City, and spent their weekends in quick, crash-course sessions in creative outlets like bookmaking and translation. In the classroom, Between the Lines students worked daily with published authors in both Arabic and English sessions, discussing and exploring each other's creative work in depth.

The 2010 session closed with a reading as part of the Iowa City Book Festival, before heading on to

Chicago where, besides visits to museums and finishing other writing prompts, a graduation ceremony was held atop the John Hancock Center. Looking out across the city, the skyscrapers, and Lake Michigan, we encouraged the students to keep their writing and their community going in every way they could imagine. Judging by Facebook activity alone, they are doing exactly that.

### Participants:

Khalil Abdalhadi Student, Jerusalem	Amr Bennis Student, Tripoli
Ali Al-Banki Student, Manama	Houda Ghenim Student, Algiers
Batool Al-Hejairi Student, Manama	Elie Nassar Student, Beirut
Ghada Al-Muhanna Student, Riyadh	Aya Rabah Student, Jerusalem
Ghazi Al-Shehabi Student, Manama	Nour Saliba Student, Beirut
Nadia Al-Taei Student, Muscat	Gladys Youssef Chaperone, Beirut
Bahaa Attaallah Student, Jerusalem	



*"I've grown a lot (at BTL), and now I'm more enthusiastic. I want to read and write more so I could hopefully become a good writer one day."*

– Anonymous BTL Student

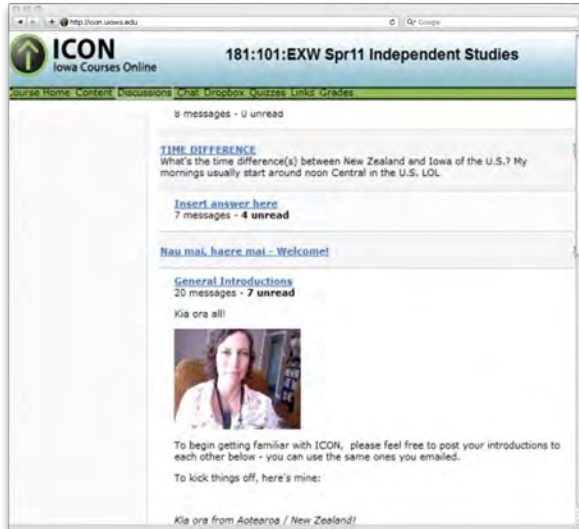


# Distance Learning and Online Projects



In 2010, the IWP developed exciting new digital communications programming to extend its global outreach. Through Web conferencing platforms such as Skype and Elluminate, online media broadcasts on YouTube, and text-based web services such as live chats, blogs and discussion forums, the IWP has created innovative ways for artists and communities around the world to connect anytime, anywhere.

From transatlantic literary readings via Skype and Elluminate Live!, to broadcasting literary performances on YouTube, to creating a semester-long Saudi Arabia-Iowa women's reading group, or responding to a major world event, the IWP partnered with writers, alumni, and other overseas artists to bring about imaginative new venues for collaborative projects. Readings and lectures were broadcast before virtual audiences, and many of the results of these encounters are available in traditional and digital formats.





### **The IWP Women's Reading and Writing Group** Spring 2010

The IWP Women's Reading and Writing Group was offered in Spring 2010 as a one-credit Independent Study course by the IWP the University of Iowa. This online exchange brought together a small group of young women writers in Iowa City and Jeddah, Saudi Arabia for reading, writing, and discussion about Arab and American literature. Co-teachers Dr. Hanaa Hijazi (fiction writer, IWP '09) and Kiki Petrosino (poet and IWP Program Assistant) recruited the participants and developed a reading list, discussion questions, and creative writing activities designed to bring the five American and five Saudi women into dialogue with one another over a series of shared texts.

The group created a supportive environment for women to read and write together across cultures and introduced young women writers in the U.S. and Saudi Arabia to a selection of major literary works authored by women in each country. The women engaged in conversation through discussion forums on ICON, email exchange, and through independent creative writing activities. At the end of the exchange, each woman contributed a final draft of a finished piece of original poetry or prose for inclusion in a commemorative electronic anthology.

### **The 100 Words Project** Spring and Summer 2010

For the IWP's "100 Words Project," alumni from previous IWP programs were invited to meditate on a given theme. In 2010, the theme was "Peace/War." Each writer responded to the theme by composing an original text of around 100 words. In these videos, the writers read and present their compositions aloud. Participating poets and writers included: Stephanos Stephanides (Cyprus), Millicent Graham (Jamaica), Milos Djurdević (Croatia), Tony Eprile (South Africa), Ashur Etwebi (Libya), and Meena Kandasamy (India). Each artist's original contribution was then broadcast as part of a series of online literary performances on YouTube in April, May and June of 2010. These performances can be viewed on the IWP's YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/iowaIWP>

### **Digital Video Conference: American Literary Discussion** September 2010

IWP Director Christopher Merrill took part in a transatlantic poetry panel and reading between the University of Iowa and the American Center Mumbai. Before a live Mumbai audience, Merrill and fellow panelists, poets Sampurna Chattarji and

## Distance Learning and Online Projects

Jeet Thayil, read from their original works, including ghazal chains, and discussed the lasting legacy of Agha Shahid Ali (1949–2001).

### **Elluminate Live! Fall 2010 Video Chats**

A Conversation with Horacio Castellanos Moya  
(featuring Eduardo Halfon), October

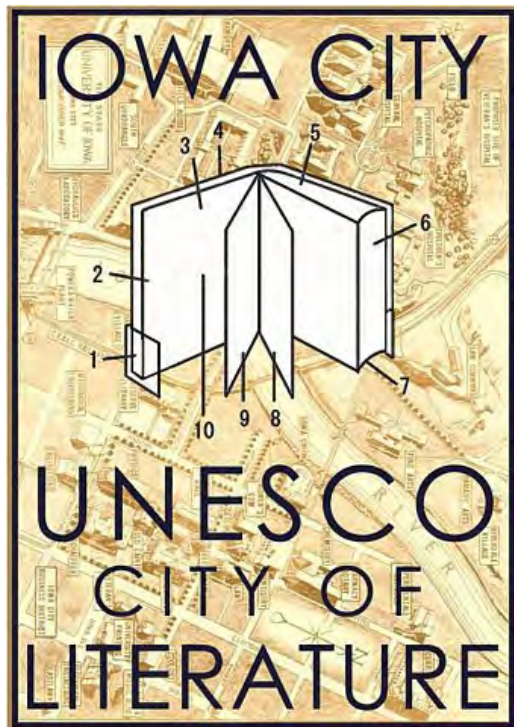
In a Web-conference style broadcast, the IWP invited students and faculty from Spanish-language creative writing programs at the University of Iowa, NYU, the University of Texas at El Paso, Texas Tech University and UC Berkeley to join a live online discussion with Salvadorean writer Horacio Castellanos Moya, the University of Iowa's 2010 Ida Beam Distinguished Professor. Moderating the discussion was Guatemalan author Eduardo Halfon.

Conducted exclusively in Spanish, this event was developed primarily as an opportunity for Spanish-speaking creative writers across the U.S. to engage with both prominent and emergent Latin American writers. What followed was a lively, hour-long discussion that ranged from Castellanos Moya and Halfon's own works, to the shaping of Central American literature, and the separation of politics and art.

Michael McKimm and Miriam Gamble:  
The New Irish Poets, November

In November 2010 British Council Writer-in-Residence at the University of Iowa Michael McKimm joined northern Irish poet Miriam Gamble for a virtual discussion and reading. Joined by a live chat audience of undergraduate poets and writers at the University of Iowa, McKimm and Gamble discussed writing in the shadow of the Seamus Heaney generation, the influences on and styles of their own work, and answered questions about craft and writing. The hour of conversation culminated in a reading of selections from their work.

## Virtual Writing University



The Virtual Writing University (vwu) is a collaborative, interdisciplinary initiative sponsored by the Graduate College and the Office of the Provost at the University of Iowa. The project was launched in fall 2006, with the mandate to create a virtual space for the University of Iowa's writing community. Its primary venue, the Writing University website (<http://www.writinguniversity.org>), is both a portal to the programs, news, and events associated with writing at Iowa, and a platform for special vwU Projects, such as the Wing, the vwU Archives, and the UNESCO iPhone application.

While deeply involved with all the writing programs at the university, the vwU enjoys an especially close relationship with the IWP; hosting an archive of over 500 audio and video recordings dating back to the program's inception in 1967; regularly streaming live readings and online chats with contemporary international writers; and collaborating with the IWP to include profiles of IWP alumni in the UNESCO's iPhone application.

In much the same way the IWP's exchanges build international bridges, the vwU extends the university's wealth of literary resources beyond Iowa City to everywhere that the Internet reaches. The IWP is proud to work with the vwU to enrich and expand a virtual space in which writers from around the world can meet and share ideas, exchange writings, and spark new connections.

## Publications

In the course of the past year, the IWP continued to gather, commission, translate and disseminate works by IWP alumni and their international colleagues in an increasing variety of media.

In print, a new translation of the classic Sanskrit epic *Bhagavad Gita* by Mani Rao (IWP 2004) appeared in the series 91<sup>st</sup> Meridian Books, which the program maintains in the catalogue of the independent small press Autumn Hill Books (<http://www.autumnhillbooks.org>). And a small Arabic-English volume gathered the poems and prose that two cohorts of young Arabic writers produced during the 2008 and 2009 sessions of the summer program *Between the Lines*.

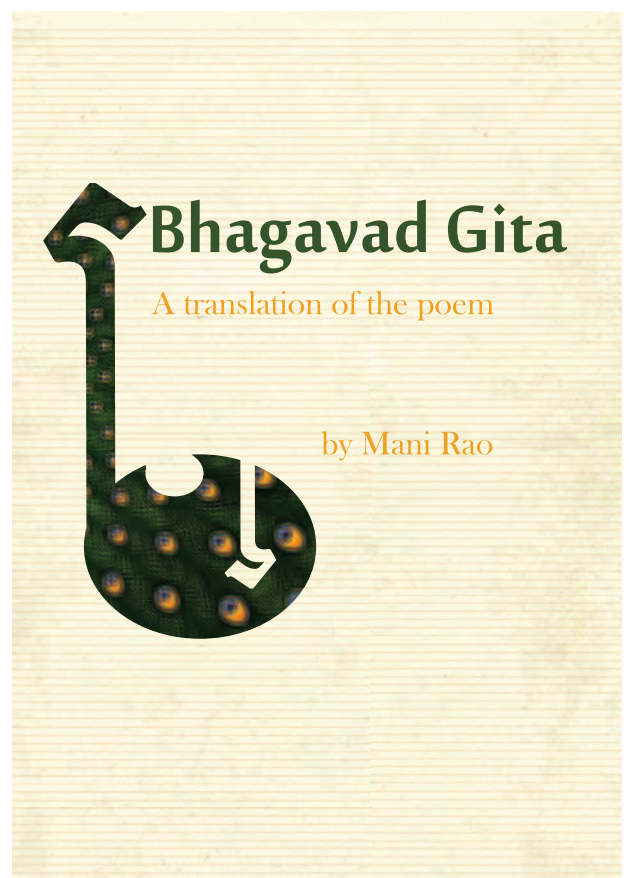
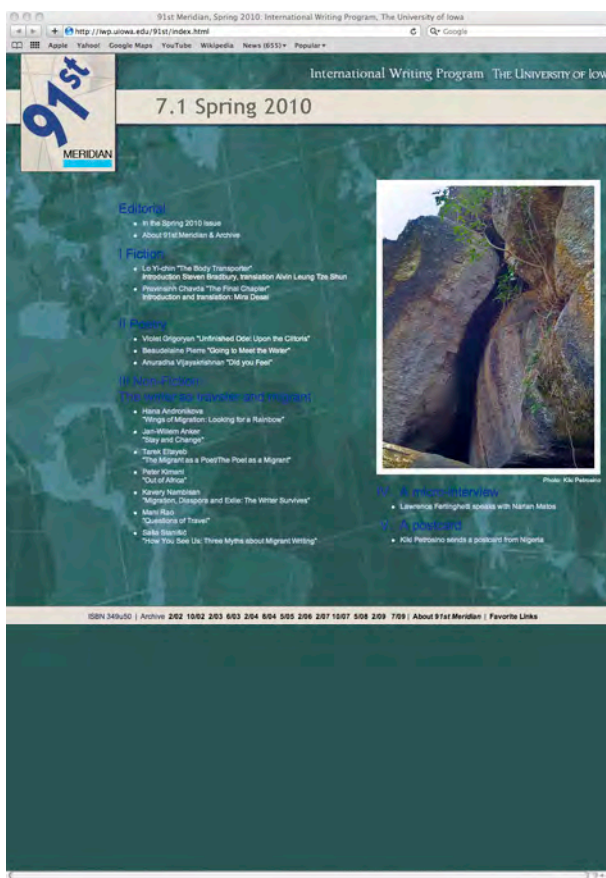
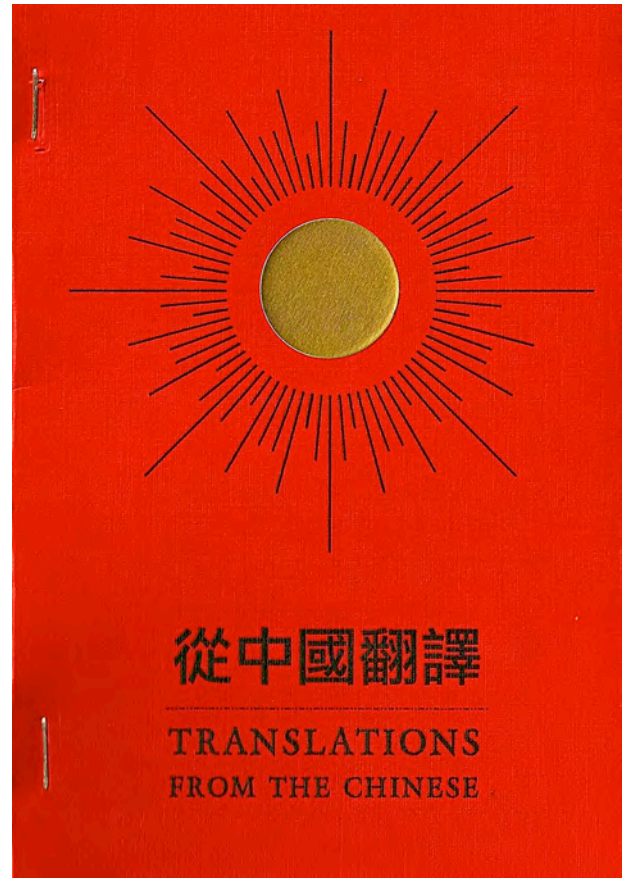
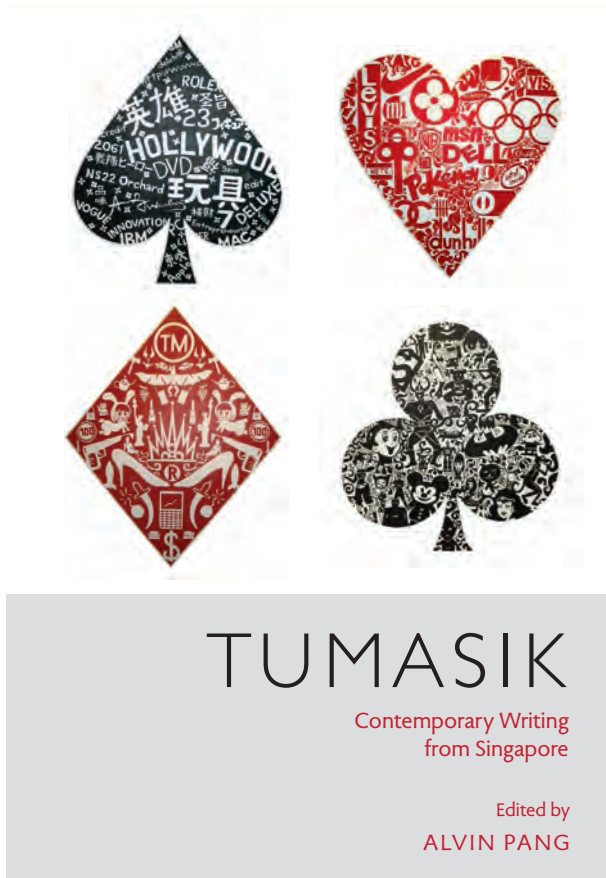
Two e-book titles are in the final stages of preparation. *Writers in e-Motion: Jerusalem, Essaouira, Fes* is a collection based on edited blog entries, photographs and film clips that 11 US and international writers produced in the course of a 2010 travel tour to these three cities. And the forthcoming *Comment écrire/Mo pou 12 Janvyè/How To Write An Earthquake* gathers responses of 12 Haitian writers, in French and Creole, with English translations, to the catastrophe of the January 2010 earthquake. The Spring/Summer issue of IWP's e-journal 91<sup>st</sup> Meridian (<http://iwp.uiowa.edu/91st/index.html>) featured, in addition to an array of international poetry and fiction, a special section on "Exile/Migration/Diaspora" highlighting the work of IWP alumni. And a number of works of IWP residency participants, newly translated in the course

of the fall translation workshop, has been accepted for publication in national literary journals, such as *Brooklyn Rail*, *Tin House*, and *Washington Square*, and well as the UI's own *The Iowa Review*.

The past year also saw the completion of two 30-minute documentaries, each covering and illuminating the travel-intense 2009-2010 collaboration and exchange of a group of minority Chinese and American writers held under the banner "Life of Discovery" (you can find them on display at <http://iwp.uiowa.edu/projects/index.html>). Documentaries of IWP's earlier projects received public exposure: the film from the 2008 New Symposium "Home/Land" was screened at the Landlocked Film Festival in Iowa City in August, while the film documenting the 2009 Souk Ukaz gathering "Writing In and Beyond the Cities" was shown several times on the UTV channel, whose subscription base is nearly 100,000 Iowa homes.

For IWP's new YouTube channel we commissioned a mini-series, titled "100 Words," for which five IWP alumni composed and then read for the camera a 100-word poem on the topic "War and Peace." The IWP's blog (@SHSE) and its Facebook page contributed further to our increased online presence.







## Program Support

The IWP can only continue its activities thanks to the continuing support of the University of Iowa, as well as federal, state, community and individual funding sources. We would like to acknowledge our profound debt to the individuals, entities and institutions listed below.

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Cultural Programs Division of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs: Assistant Secretary Ann Stock, Chief Cultural Programs Division Marjorie A. Ames, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Professional and Cultural Exchanges Maura Pally, and Bureau Program Officers Colombia Barrosse, Lea Perez, Alina

Romanowski, and Jill Staggs, Office of Citizen Exchanges Managing Director Chris Miner

The United States Embassies and their Public Affairs Officers in Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brazil, Chile, China, Djibouti, Egypt, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Jerusalem, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritius, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, the Philippines, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, and Venezuela, as well as the U.S.

U.S. Senator Charles E. Grassley and staff

U.S. Senator Tom Harkin and staff

U.S. Congressman David Loebsack and staff

Iowa City Mayor Matt Hayek, City Manager Dale Helling, and City Council

U.S. National Commission for UNESCO: Culture Communication & Info Officer Robert Mearkle

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Iowa Summer Writing Festival: Director Amy Margulies

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School of Library and Information Science: Professor James Elmborg and graduate research assistants

The Nonfiction Writing Program: Director Robin Hemley, faculty, and administrative staff

Senior College: Committee Chair Peggy Houston

The Department of Spanish and Portuguese: Chair Mercedes Nino-Murcia, Professors Ana Merino, Roberto Ampuero, Denise Filios and Santiago Vaquera Vásquez



*"From now on, when I think of my writing and my career, I do so including Iowa on that map." – Gonzalo Garcés*

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Greg Bal

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Alan MacVey and staff

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and Zlatko Anguelov

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za and theatre staff

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Masae and Michael Judge

Priya Kumar

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sulate General, Jerusalem

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Senior Producer Zeyba Rehman

Faouzi Skali, Director, Festival of Sufi Culture (Fès,  
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Lori Wood (Fés, Morocco)

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Chinese Writers' Association & CWA Kunming and  
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 Viterbo University, La Crosse, WI  
 Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA  
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### **Outreach Opportunities Provided By Other Institutions:**

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 Bedell NonfictionNOW Conference  
 Brooklyn Book Festival, Brooklyn, NY

## Program Support

City of Asylum/Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA: President Henry Reese

Effigy Mounds National Monument, Harpers Ferry, IA: Merle Frommett and staff

The Island Institute, Sitka, AK: Co-Director Carolyn Servid

Landlocked Film Festival: Creative Director Mary Blackwood

Mark Twain Museum, Hannibal, MO

Pittsburgh Jazz/Poetry Festival

The Portland Stage Company of Portland, ME: Artistic Director Anita Stewart, actors, and staff

Wordstock Festival, Portland, OR

### **Foundations, Educational & Cultural Institutions:**

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Asian Writers Festival, New York, NY

British Council

The Burma Project of the Open Society Institute, New York, NY

Chinese Writers Association

City of Asylum/Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Creative New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand

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This honor roll gratefully recognizes individuals and organizations who contributed \$100 or more from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010, to the International Writing Program through The University of Iowa Foundation, the preferred channel for private support of all areas of the University.

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*"I feel that I belong to Iowa."*  
– Farhad Khoyratty

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Swanson, Alan L.  
Swanson, Elizabeth A.  
U.S. Bank  
Wilder, William W.

### **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.

**If you would like to discuss how you can support the International Writing Program, please contact:**

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## Contributing Organizations

The IWP gratefully acknowledges the support of these organizations.





