



International
Writing Program



Annual Report 2012



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GREETINGS FROM IOWA CITY

A MESSAGE FROM IWP DIRECTOR CHRISTOPHER MERRILL

Since the International Writing Program (IWP) was founded in 1967, more than 1,400 writers from nearly 140 countries have come to Iowa City—now a UNESCO City of Literature—to write, discuss the craft of writing, and forge artistic bonds and personal friendships that span continents, languages, and cultures.

The IWP's tradition of fostering creativity and cultural exchange reached new heights in 2012, when alumnus Mo Yan (IWP '04, China), was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, becoming the second IWP Nobel laureate, after Turkish novelist Orhan Pamuk (IWP '85). In November, Hualing Nieh Engle, who co-founded the IWP with her late husband, Paul Engle, was honored with a 2012 IMPACT Award from the University of Iowa's International Programs, for her "contributions to promote global understanding" (see "A Lifetime of Impact" on page 6).

The Fall Residency, IWP's flagship program, brought 30 writers from 28 countries to Iowa City for ten weeks, during which they took part in over 165 events. They gave readings, participated in panel discussions and translation workshops, presented papers and films, and facilitated writing workshops in 32 cities across 18 states, and all while doing their own creative work.

In 2012, the IWP also took small groups of U.S.



writers overseas on reading and lecture tours to increase awareness of American literature, traveling to the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo, Brazil, Cambodia, Vietnam, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe.

The IWP's summer Between the Lines program brought American teens together with their peers from Russia and the Arab world to study creative writing; while Distance Learning programs brought students from Gaza, Sierra Leone, and Mexico together with teachers and students thousands of miles away, in an innovative form of cultural exchange.

The IWP also launched exciting new programs, including a three-year collaborative bilingual theatre initiative, *Book Wings*, which uses the latest digital videoconferencing technology to connect stages, audiences, and viewers across

vast distances. Publication projects included the new Whitman Web multimedia gallery, which began publishing Walt Whitman's iconic poem, "Song of Myself," in short weekly installments alongside a growing number of translations, including the first-ever translation of the poem into Persian.

On a final note, the IWP's writers benefit greatly from the hospitality of the Iowa City community, who welcome them into their homes and farms. This November, the IWP lost a longtime friend, Allie Dane, who hosted IWP writers at the Dane Family Farm every fall. IWP writers mark her passing in this report's closing feature.

In all of its programming, the IWP strives to make "the world small and the mind open" as one fall resident put it. We hope that this is what this report shows.

With warm wishes,

Christopher Merrill
Director, International Writing Program

A LIFETIME OF IMPACT

IWP CO-FOUNDER HUALING NIEH ENGLE'S LIFE'S WORK: BRINGING WRITERS TOGETHER



From left to right: Joan Kjaer, Hualing Engle, Willard Boyd (president emeritus of the University of Iowa) and Christopher Merrill, during the World Canvass broadcast. Photo courtesy of UI International Programs.

Among the special events of 2012 one remains unforgettable—the IMPACT Award ceremony in the Old Senate Chambers, honoring this year the IWP's co-founder, active member of our Board of Advisors, and all-around dear friend of the program Professor Emerita Hualing Nieh Engle.

Established in 2010, the award is presented

during International Education Week by UI International Programs to “an exceptional individual who has made sustained and deep contributions internationally or in the U.S. to promote global understanding.” In his remarks at the ceremony Provost Butler noted that Hualing Engle is being honored “for her vision in creating and nurturing the International

Writing Program; for her commitment to freedom of expression and international/intercultural dialogue regardless of political barriers; for her personal investment in internationalizing the UI campus as well as the larger American literary landscape; and for proudly carrying the name and reputation of the University of Iowa to the most cosmopolitan of cities and most humble of communities in her own voice and in the voices of IWP writers.”

The packed ceremony, at the heart of the live broadcast *Prairie Canvass*, featured conversations among colleagues, friends, family and visitors from both sides of the Pacific Ocean, a reading from Hualing's work and, eventually, a screening of *One Tree Three Lives*. Directed by the Hong Kong based filmmaker Angie Chen, this charming 2012 feature-length documentary filled in images and sounds of the eight decades, three countries, and innumerable people who have been brought into the orbit of Hualing's vision of world writing, connected across borders and languages.

Listen to the WorldCanvass Broadcast:

“IWP: Telling the Stories of the World”

<http://international.uiowa.edu/accents/post/hualing-nieh-engle-receive-2012-international-impact-award>

THE FALL RESIDENCY

AUGUST 25TH – NOVEMBER 13TH 2013



IWP Writers hit the ground running: attending an orientation meeting on the first day of the residency .

For our 46th annual Fall Residency, participants deepened their understanding of both America and the international literary scene, engaging not only their colleagues, but also domestic literary communities through outreach events in schools and universities, through collaborations in theatre and dance, and

through the pursuit of writing and research projects made possible by the IWP's vast network of contacts and friends. Since 1967, writers from across the world have gathered at the IWP to do just that, and 2012 was one of our most successful residencies to date.

In all, during their 81 days at the IWP, the 30 writers-in-residence from 28 countries

participated in over 165 events in 32 cities across 18 states, and all while writing well over 1,500 pages of their own creative work. These numbers quantify the larger story at the core of the IWP's mission: to create, and to connect. From readings at renowned bookstores like Prairie Lights (Iowa City) and Politics & Prose (D.C.), to tours of famed literary centers like the Poetry Foundation (Chicago) and Faulkner House Books (New Orleans), to collaborations with dance and theatre companies, and invitations to visit major universities across the country, the writers of the 2012 IWP Fall Residency engaged the American literary, academic, and general public like no residency before.

"A humble place, that can't possibly exist in reality. But it does, against all the rules and beliefs of the world for the love of the only thing this world can be saved by: art."

-Alina Dadaeva, Uzbekistan

More at:

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

FIELD TRIPS, RECEPTIONS, & CULTURAL EVENTS

8.25

Residency Begins

8.26

Iowa City Walk

8.27

Opening
Reception

8.28

Tuesday evening Cinemathèque screenings commence

8.30

Thursday evening Writing Across Genres classes commence

8.31

Friday afternoon International Translations Workshop classes commence

Friday evening Shambaugh House Reading Series commences
Anthology Reading Series

9.1

MFA Programs reception

9.2

Sunday afternoon Prairie Lights Reading Series commences

9.3

Labor Day Trip to Lake Macbride and Wilson's Orchard

9.5

Text and Context: American Politics

9.6-9

Pittsburgh Jazz Poetry events



IWP Residents TJ Dema, Khaled Alberry, and Lucy Fricke read to a packed crowd at Room 220 in New Orleans .



9.6

Trip to 65th Annual Tri-State Rodeo

9.7

Friday afternoon Iowa City Public Library panels commence
Birds and Batteries concert at The Mill

9.10

IWP course International Literature Today commences
Prairie Lights special reading: Latin American Fiction

9.12

Salon: Midwest Writers Read

9.15

Iowa Face to Face: Des Moines

9.17

Emancipation Event at Bijou Theatre

9.19-21

Events with Ida Cordelia Beam Distinguished Visiting Professor Hisham Matar

9.19

Text and Context: Ask an MFA

9.20-9.22

Iowa Face to Face: Northwest Iowa

9.21

Trip to Coralville Library: Windows and Mirrors

9.22

Shambaugh House special reading: Motti Lerner
Barn Dance

9.23

One Community, One Book: Kao Kalia Yang
Global Express



IWP fall residents read at Politics and Prose Bookstore during end of residency travel to Washington DC.



IWP writer Federico Falco reads as part of the Sunday afternoon Prairie Lights Reading Series.

9.24-9.28

Group trips to San Francisco and New Orleans

9.25

San Francisco State University Poetry Center reading

9.27

Press Street Room 220 Presents: reading Live Prose at Melvin's

9.29

Kalona Fall Festival

10.1

Reading for Des Moines Central Academy students, Shambaugh House
Strange Cage reading

10.3

Ti-Coca and Wanga Nègès Happy Hour at The Mill
Special Reading: Geoff Dyer at Englert Theater

10.7

Iowa Face to Face: Iowa City

10.8-10.10

Events at Creighton University/Nebraska Wesleyan University

10.8

Reading: Marvin Bell and Christopher Merrill at Prairie Lights

10.11

James Thomas/Robbie Shapard Q&A on flash fiction

Tour: University of Iowa Center for the Book

Proseminar: The moving Image Among the Arts

10.12

Community College Humanities "Building a City of Words" event

Reading: Junot Diaz at Englert Theatre

10.13

Iowa Face to Face: Southeast Iowa/Ottumwa

10.14

Screening: "City of Literature" at Englert Theatre

75th Birthday Party for Marvin Bell

10.15

Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities (CIVIC) Dinner

10.17

"The Lit Show" reading on KRUI

Reading: Charles D'Ambrosio and Joyelle McSweeney at Dey House

10.18

US Bank reception

Kronos Quartet at Englert Theatre

Anthology reading at PSZ

10.19-10.21

Trip to Chicago

10.19

Tour of Poetry Foundation

10.24

Reading: Marilynne Robinson and Eula Biss at Englert Theatre

10.25

Reading: Justin Cronin at Prairie Lights

10.27

Iowa Face to Face: WorldCanvass

10.28

Harvest Party at Dane Family Farm

Screening: *One Tree: Three Lives* at Bijou Theatre

Iowa Face to Face

10.29

Life of Discovery Interactive Work Session



IWP fall resident Jeffrey Paparoa Holman (New Zealand) takes part in the Friday evening Shambaugh House Reading Series.

10.31

Text and Context: "Writing Chicago"

Shambaugh House Reading: Alberto Fuguet

11.1

Solstead Farm

Alberto Fuguet Film Screening

Reading: Bret Anthony Johnston

11.2

International IMPACT Award Ceremony/WorldCanvass Broadcast
Honoring Hualing Nih Engle

11.5

IWP Closing Party

11.4-11.6

Events at Portland Stage Company

11.6

Meridian election Results Party

11.6-11.9

Trip to Washington DC

11.8

Politics and Prose reading

11.9-11.13

Trip to New York City

11.10

Reading: Poet's House, New York City

Hualing Nih Engle film screening at Asia Society

11.11

Expressing Freedom reading and dance collaboration with New York
Battery Dance Company

11.12

Issue Release Party for Granta 121: Best of Young Brazilian Novelists



Other Visits:

Austin (TX) • Michigan State University (MI) • Ohio State University (OH)
• University of Kansas-Lawrence (KS) • University of Notre Dame (IN) •
University of Wisconsin (WI) • University of Nebraska (NE) • Drake
University (IA) • Cornell College (IA) • Grinnell College (IA) • Ferrara
Book Festival (Italy) • PEN International Conference (South Korea) •
Texas Tech University (TX) • Northern Illinois University (IL) • Rice
University (TX) • Kirkwood Community College (IA) • Upper Iowa
University (IA) • Creighton University (NE) • University of Nebraska-
Wesleyan (NE) • Department of State, Washington DC (DC) • Politics
and Prose Bookstore, Washington DC (DC) • Anthology Reading Series,
Iowa City (IA) • Strange Cage Reading Series, Iowa City (IA) • Senior
College, Iowa City (IA) • Poetry Foundation, Chicago (IL) • Press Street,
New Orleans (LA) • San Francisco State University Poetry Center (CA) •
Poets House, New York (NY) • Portland Stage Company, Portland
(ME) • Pittsburgh Jazz Poetry Festival (PA) • MLK Library Teen Space
(DC) • Ballou Senior HS (DC) • Bell Multicultural HS (DC) • Coolidge
Senior HS (DC) • Asia Society, New York City (NY) • Battery Park, New
York City (NY) • McNally Jackson, New York City (NY) • Bard Early
College, New Orleans (LA) • Hill Avenue Book Co, Spirit Lake (IA) •
Coastal Carolina University in Conway (SC).



Clockwise from upper left: IWP writers Pandora (Burma/Myanmar) and Gulala Nouri (Iraq) in the stands at the Tri-State Rodeo; taking in a view of the city during mid-residency travel to San Francisco; IWP writers teaching and mentoring young writers as part of the Face to Face program's visit to Okoboji; Iowa in collaboration with the Iowa Youth Writing Project; Nay Phone Latt (Burma) during mid-residency travel to New Orleans; IWP writers pose after listening to President Barack Obama speak during a visit to the University of Iowa campus.



Clockwise from upper left: Visit to the Poetry Foundation; Taleb Al Refai (Kuwait) reading at Politics and Prose in Washington D.C.; Alina Dadaeva (Uzbekistan); Federico Falco (Argentina) and Alisa Ganieva (Russia) speaking with students at Cornell College; Iowa City Public Library panel on "Spectral Gender"; Chris Mlalazi (Zimbabwe) at MLK Memorial in Washington D.C.; Prairie Lights reading; residents visit Millennium Park in Chicago; residents with students from Des Moines Central Academy after discussion and Q&A at Shambaugh House (at center).



2012 IWP ACTIVITIES

ORGANIZED BY WRITER

"To meet all these writers made the world small and the mind open. Life always changes writing and the IWP was full of life."

-Lucy Fricke, Germany

Taleb Al Refai (Kuwait)

fiction writer

Participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State

Program Activities:

September 2	Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
September 23	Play staged at Global Express
October 2	University of Iowa research class on City of Literature iPhone app
October 4	Reading and discussion, Senior College, Johnson County Senior Center
October 15	Presentation, International Literature Today
October 26	Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "At Language's End"
November 8	Reading, Politics and Prose Bookstore, Washington DC
November 11	Reading and dance collaboration, <i>Expressing Freedom</i> event with New York Battery Dance Company

Khaled Alberry (Egypt)

novelist

Participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State

Program Activities:

September 9	Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
September 27	Reading, Press Street, New Orleans
October 4	Reception, African Studies
October 8	Presentation, International Literature Today
October 29	Reading, University of Iowa Religious Studies
October 30	Reading, University of Iowa Political Science Class

Genevieve L. Asenjo (Philippines)

fiction writer, poet, translator

Participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State

Program Activities:

August 31	Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
September 10	Presentation, International Literature Today
September 15	Iowa Face to Face youth engagement event, Des Moines

September 27	Reading and class visit, Bard Early College, New Orleans
September 29-30	Professional visit, Austin
October 6	Reading, Des Moines
October 11	Reading and discussion, Senior College, Johnson County Senior Center
October 12	Reading, Community College Humanities
October 17	Appearance on KRUI's "The Lit Show"
October 26	Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "At Language's End"
October 29-31	Attendee, Philippine Studies Conference, Michigan State University
November 11	Reading and dance collaboration, <i>Expressing Freedom</i> event with New York Battery Dance Company
November 12	Meeting with agent from Anderson Literary Management

Jana Beňová (Slovakia)

poet, fiction writer

Participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State

Program Activities:

September 9	Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
September 18	IWP Cinemathèque Screening of <i>The Sun in a Net</i>
September 21	Class discussion, World Cinemas, World Literatures Today: A Sampler
September 21	Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Currents of Migration"
September 25	Reading, San Francisco State University Poetry Center
October 1	Presentation, International Literature Today
October 15	Reading, Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities (CIVIC) Dinner
November 4-6	Events, Portland Stage Company's "From Away"

Luis Bravo (Uruguay)

poet, essayist

Participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State

Program Activities:

September 6-9	Events, Pittsburgh Jazz Poetry
September 14	Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
September 17-20	Reading and class visits, Ohio State University
October 3-7	Reading and class visits, University of Kansas-Lawrence
October 12	Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Works in Progress"
October 18	Reading, Anthology Reading Series
October 19	Tour of Poetry Foundation, Chicago
October 21-27	Reading and class visits, University of Notre Dame
October 29	Presentation, International Literature Today
October 30-31	Reading, University of Wisconsin, Madison
November 11	Reading and dance collaboration, <i>Expressing Freedom</i> event with New York Battery Dance Company

Chan Chi Tak 陳智德 (pen name: **Chan Mit 陳滅**) (Hong Kong)

poet, essayist

Participation made possible by a grant from The Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation in Hong Kong

Program Activities:

September 16 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
September 21 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "The Currents of Migration"
September 25 Reading, San Francisco State University Poetry Center
October 1 Presentation, International Literature Today
October 8-10 Events, Creighton University/Nebraska Wesleyan University
October 15 Reading, Council for the International Visitors to Iowa Cities (CIVIC) Dinner

Choi Myoung Sook (South Korea)

playwright

Participation funded by Arts Council Korea

Program Activities:

September 23 Play staged at Global Express
October 5 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Writing in a Landscape"
October 6 Reception, Center for Asian and Pacific Studies (CAPS)
October 12 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
October 18 Reading, US Bank Reception
October 29 Presentation, International Literature Today
November 4-6 Events, Portland Stage Company's "From Away"

Matías Correa (Chile)

fiction writer

Participation supported through a grant from the Universidad Finis Terrae

Program Activities:

September 20-22 Iowa Face to Face youth engagement event, Northwest Iowa (Okoboji)
October 5 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
October 15 Presentation, International Literature Today
October 30 Reading, University of Iowa Political Science class

Alina Dadaeva (Uzbekistan)

poet, fiction writer

Participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State

Program Activities:

September 7 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Spectral Gender"
September 15 Iowa Face to Face youth engagement event, Des Moines
September 21 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
October 11 Tour, University of Iowa Center for the Book
October 22 Presentation, International Literature Today
October 23 IWP Cinemathèque Screening of *Ivan Vassilievich Changes Professions*

October 26 Class discussion, World Cinemas, World Literatures Today: A Sampler
October 25 Reading and discussion, Senior College, Johnson County Senior Center
November 10 Reading, Poets House, New York City

TJ Dema (Botswana)

poet

Participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State

Program Activities:

August 31 Reading, Anthology Reading Series
September 2 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
September 6-9 Events, Pittsburgh Jazz Poetry
September 20-22 Iowa Face to Face youth engagement event, Northwest Iowa (Okoboji)
September 23 Play staged at Global Express
September 27 Reading, Press Street, New Orleans
October 1 Presentation, International Literature Today
October 1 Reading, Strange Cage, Iowa City
October 4 Reception, African Studies
October 5-6 Reading and class visits, Upper Iowa University/Iowa Face to Face youth engagement event, Northeast Iowa
October 8-10 Events, University of Nebraska
October 25 Reading and class visits, Kirkwood Community College Cedar Rapids
October 30 Reading, University of Iowa Political Science class
October 31-Nov. 1 Reading, Drake University
November 6 Reading, DC Youth Slam at MLK Library Teen Space
November 10 Reading, Poet's House, New York City
November 11 Reading and dance collaboration, *Expressing Freedom* event with New York Battery Dance Company

Federico Falco (Argentina)

fiction writer, poet

Participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State

Program Activities:

September 10 Reading, Prairie Lights special, Latin American Fiction
September 25 Reading, San Francisco State University Poetry Center
October 8 Presentation, International Literature Today
October 10 Reading, University of Iowa Spanish class
October 11 Tour, University of Iowa Center for the Book
October 16 Reading and class visits, Cornell College
October 18 Reading, Anthology Reading Series
October 30-31 Reading, University of Wisconsin, Madison
November 8 Presentation, PEN/Faulkner's Writers-in-Schools program at Coolidge Senior High School, Washington DC

Lucy Fricke (Germany)

fiction writer

Participated courtesy the Max Kade Foundation

Program Activities:

September 27 Reading, Press Street, New Orleans
September 30 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
October 9-10 Reading and class visits, Grinnell College
October 11 Tour, University of Iowa Center for the Book
October 15 Presentation, International Literature Today

Alisa Ganieva (Russia)

fiction writer, children's writer, critic

Participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State

Program Activities:

September 14 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Writing in a Country at War"
September 17 Presentation, International Literature Today
October 1 Reading, for Des Moines Central HS students, at Shambaugh House
October 2-10 Presentation and Reading, Ferrara Book Festival, Italy
October 13 Iowa Face to Face youth engagement event, Southeast Iowa
October 16 Reading and class visits, Cornell College
October 17 Appearance on KRUI's "The Lit Show"
October 18 Reading and discussion, Senior College, Johnson County Senior Center
November 4 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
November 8 Reading, Politics and Prose Bookstore, Washington DC
November 11 Reading and dance collaboration, *Expressing Freedom* event with New York Battery Dance Company

Hae Yisoo (South Korea)

fiction writer

Participated courtesy of the Korea Literature Translation Institute (KLTI)

Program Activities:

October 5 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Writing in a Landscape"
October 6 Reception, Center for Asian and Pacific Studies (CAPS)
October 12 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
November 5 Presentation, International Literature Today

Jeffrey Paparoa Holman (New Zealand)

poet, nonfiction writer

Participation supported through a grant from Creative New Zealand

Program Activities:

September 21 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "The Currents of Migration"
October 9 IWP Cinemathèque Screening of *When a City Falls*
October 13 Iowa Face to Face youth engagement event, Southeast Iowa/Ottumwa
October 17 Appearance on KRUI's "The Lit Show"

October 17 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
October 25 Reading and discussion, Senior College, Johnson County Senior Center
October 28 Iowa: Face to Face in Iowa City
October 29 Presentation, International Literature Today

Andrei Khadanovich (Belarus)

poet, translator

Participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State

Program Activities:

September 7-18 Presentation, PEN Conference in Seoul, South Korea
September 21 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
October 5 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Writing in a Landscape"
October 18 Reading, US Bank Reception
October 19 Tour of Poetry Foundation, Chicago
October 22 Presentation, International Literature Today
October 28-30 Reading and class visits, Texas Tech University

Lin Chun Ying 林俊 (Taiwan)

fiction writer

Participation made possible by the Council for Cultural Affairs in Taiwan

Program Activities:

September 21 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "The Currents of Migration"
October 6 Reception, Center for Asian and Pacific Studies (CAPS)
October 8 Events, Creighton University/Nebraska Wesleyan University
October 11 Tour, University of Iowa Center for the Book
October 14 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
October 22 Presentation, International Literature Today
November 2 Reading, Hualing Engle IMPACT Ceremony/WorldCanvass broadcast

Rodrigo Garcia Lopes (Brazil)

poet, translator

Participation courtesy the William B. Quarton Foundation

Program Activities:

October 7 Reading, Prairie Lights
October 12 Reading and discussion, Community College Humanities event: "Building a City of Words," Sheraton Iowa City
October 16 IWP Cinemathèque Screening of *Satori Uso*
October 26 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "At Language's End"
November 2 Reading, Hualing Engle IMPACT Ceremony/WorldCanvass broadcast
November 5 Presentation, International Literature Today
November 5 Concert, Clinton Street Social Club, Iowa City
November 10 Reading, Poets House, New York City

Dimitris Lyacos (Greece/Italy)

poet, playwright

Participation made possible by a grant from the Counting Art non-profit organization and Athens-based ABOUT Cultural Venue

Program Activities:

September 23 Play staged at Global Express
October 11 Proseminar, The Moving Image Among the Arts
October 17 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
November 5 Presentation, International Literature Today

Christopher Mlalazi (Zimbabwe)

fiction writer, playwright

Participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State

Program Activities:

September 17 Presentation, International Literature Today
September 23 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
September 23 Play staged at Global Express
October 4 Reading, African Studies Reception
October 11 Tour, University of Iowa Center for the Book
October 12 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Works in Progress"
October 17 Appearance on KRUI's "The Lit Show"
October 18 Reading, US Bank Reception
November 1 Lecture, University of Iowa PhD History class
November 4-6 Events, Portland Stage Company's "From Away"
November 8 Presentation, PEN/Faulkner's Writers-in-Schools program at Bell Multicultural HS, Washington DC
November 11 Reading and dance collaboration, *Expressing Freedom* event with New York Battery Dance Company

Nay Phone Latt (Burma)

poet, fiction writer

Participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State

Program Activities:

September 20-22 Face to Face youth engagement event, Northwest Iowa (Okoboji)
October 4-8 Attendee, Burma Studies Conference, Northern Illinois University
October 11 Tour, University of Iowa Center for the Book
October 15 Reading, Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities (CIVIC) Dinner
November 5 Presentation, International Literature Today

Gulala Nouri (Iraq)

poet, fiction writer, translator

Participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State

Program Activities:

September 7 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Spectral Gender"

September 17 Presentation, International Literature Today; Reading, UI History class
September 20-22 Iowa Face to Face youth engagement event, Northwest Iowa (Okoboji)
September 23 Play staged at Global Express
September 29 Reading, presentation and reception/breakfast at Kinnick Stadium with University of Iowa President Sally Mason
October 4 Reading and discussion, Senior College, Johnson County Senior Center
October 7 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
November 1 Lecture on Erbil Citadel, University of Iowa PhD History class

Pandora (Burma/Myanmar)

poet

Participated courtesy of private funding

Program Activities:

September 4 IWP Cinemathèque Screening of *The Tiger and the Snow*
September 7 Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Spectral Gender"
September 7 Class discussion, World Cinemas, World Literatures Today: A Sampler
September 10 Presentation, International Literature Today
September 15 Iowa Face to Face youth engagement event, Des Moines
September 20-22 Iowa Face to Face youth engagement event Northwest Iowa (Okoboji)
September 21 Reading, Hill Avenue Book Co, Spirit Lake
September 23 Play staged at Global Express
September 27 Reading and class visits, Bard Early College, New Orleans
October 4-8 Attendee, Burma Studies Conference, Northern Illinois University
October 11 Tour, University of Iowa Center for the Book
October 14 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
October 17 Appearance on KRUI's "The Lit Show"
October 18 Reading and discussion, Senior College, Johnson County Senior Center
October 19 Tour of Poetry Foundation, Chicago
October 30 Reading, University of Iowa Journalism class
November 8 Reading, Politics and Prose Bookstore, Washington DC
November 11 Reading and dance collaboration, *Expressing Freedom* event with New York Battery Dance Company

Barlen Pyamootoo (Mauritius)

fiction writer

Participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State

Program Activities:

September 11 IWP Cinemathèque Screening of *Chess Players*
September 15 Iowa Face to Face youth engagement event, Des Moines
September 16 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
September 27 Reading and class visit, Bard Early College, New Orleans
October 1 Reading for Des Moines Central Academy students at Shambaugh House
October 4 Reading, African Studies Reception

October 5-6	Reading and class visit, Upper Iowa University/Iowa Face to Face youth engagement event, Northeast Iowa
October 12	Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Works in Progress"
October 15	Reading, University of Iowa Religious Studies
October 26	Class visit, University of Iowa Crossing Borders class
October 29	Presentation, International Literature Today
October 30	Class visit, University of Iowa Graduate seminar

Milagros Socorro (Venezuela)

fiction writer, nonfiction writer

Participated courtesy of the U.S. Embassy in Caracas

Program Activities:

September 14	Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
October 1	Presentation, International Literature Today
October 5-6	Reading and class visit, Iowa Face to Face youth engagement event, Northeast Iowa/Upper Iowa University
October 8	Reading and class visits, Grinnell College
October 12	Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Works in Progress"
October 13	Iowa Face to Face youth engagement event, Southeast Iowa/Ottumwa
October 16	IWP Cinemathèque Screening of <i>Hermano</i>
November 11	Reading and dance collaboration, <i>Expressing Freedom</i> event with New York Battery Dance Company

Bilal Tanweer (Pakistan)

fiction writer, poet, translator

Participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State

Program Activities:

September 10	Presentation, International Literature Today
September 14	Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Writing in a Country at War"
September 23	Play staged at Global Express
September 25	Reading, San Francisco State University Poetry Center
October 1	Reading for Des Moines Central Academy students at Shambaugh House
October 12	Reading and discussion, Community College Humanities, Iowa City
October 28-31	Reading and class visits, Rice University
November 4	Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
November 8	Reading, Politics and Prose Bookstore, Washington DC

Abdullah Thabit (Saudi Arabia)

poet, fiction writer

Participated courtesy of Beirut39 and the William B. Quarton Foundation

Program Activities:

September 17	Presentation, International Literature Today
September 23	Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore

Yaghoub Yadali (Iran)

fiction writer

Participation privately funded

Program Activities:

September 14	Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Writing in a Country at War"
October 5	Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
October 22	Presentation, International Literature Today

Stephanie Ye (Singapore)

fiction writer

Participation made possible thanks to a grant from the Singapore National Arts Council

Program Activities:

September 7	Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Spectral Gender"
September 30	Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
October 6	Reception, Center for Asian and Pacific Studies (CAPS)
October 8-10	Events, Creighton University/Nebraska Wesleyan University
October 15	Presentation, International Literature Today
October 17	Appearance on KRUI's "The Lit Show"
October 30	IWP Cinemathèque Screening of Singapore Dreaming
November 2	Class discussion, World Cinemas, World Literatures Today; Hualing Engle IMPACT Award Ceremony/WorldCanvass broadcast
November 11	Reading and dance collaboration, <i>Expressing Freedom</i> event with New York Battery Dance Company

Mohib Zegham (Afghanistan)

fiction writer, translator

Participated courtesy of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul

Program Activities:

August 31	Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
September 7	Presentation, Iowa City Public Library: "Spectral Gender"
September 14	Iowa City Public Library: "Writing in a Country at War"
September 19	Presentation, "The History of Fundamentalism in Afghanistan," University of Iowa History class
October 2	IWP Cinemathèque Screening of <i>Osama</i>
October 5	Class discussion, World Cinemas, World Literatures Today: A Sampler
October 6	Reception, Centre for Asian and Pacific Studies (CAPS)
October 8	Presentation, International Literature Today
October 11	Reading and discussion, Senior College, Johnson County Senior Center
October 23	Presentation, "The History and Culture of Afghanistan," University of Iowa Mass Communications class
October 25	Reading and class visit, Kirkwood Community College Cedar Rapids
October 28-30	Presentations, "The Taliban v/s al-Qaeda" and "Creativity as a Product of Conflict," Coastal Carolina University

LIFE OF DISCOVERY 文化探寻

A CREATIVE EXCHANGE BETWEEN WRITERS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA



Life of Discovery writers participate in a panel discussion as part of a visit to the Shanghai Writers Association on July 6th, 2012.

Life of Discovery, a creative exchange made possible in partnership with the China Writers Association (CWA) and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State completed its fourth cycle, bringing together writers from the United States and minority ethnic communities in the People's Republic of China to provide opportunities for creative collaboration and artistic exchange and to increase mutual understanding between nations. A delegation of four U.S. writers traveled to China from June 27th to July 7th for the first leg of the exchange; four Chinese writers completed the cycle, traveling to the U.S. from October 24 through November 3, 2012.

The programming organized by CWA in China included joint work sessions in which writers discussed "Writing the City," (the theme of the

2012 Life of Discovery exchange) and collaborated to produce new creative work. The delegations also met with members of the Chinese literary community, including Chinese novelist Wang Anyi and members of the Shanghai Writers' Association, and visited The Forbidden City, the Juyongguang section of China's Great Wall and the water village of Zhouzhuang.

In the United States, the Chinese delegation visited Chicago, then traveled to Iowa City, where they met with numerous leaders of the literary community, including UNESCO City of Literature Director John Kenyon and IWP co-founder Hualing Nieh Engle, with whom they attended a screening of Hong Kong filmmaker Angie Chen's film *One Tree Three Lives* about Hualing's life (see "A Lifetime of Impact" on page 6). The delegation also met with writers participating in the IWP fall residency to discuss the craft of writing and the theme of "Writing the City" using Stuart Dybek's essay on Chicago, "Aquamarine," as a springboard. Life of Discovery writers also participated in a joint creative work session with actors from the University of Iowa Department of Theatre Arts, gave public readings, visited university classes and writing workshops and collaborated with school children enrolled in the Iowa Youth Writing Project, directed by Life of Discovery U.S. delegation poet Dora Malech.

Together, the U.S. and Chinese delegations forged creative and personal bonds that

transcend culture and distance.

Chinese Participants:

Liu Yewei 刘业伟, whose pen name is Yewei, was born in Zaozhuang, Shandong province in 1977 and studied at Qufu Normal University, Nanjing Normal University, and Lu Xun Academy of Literature. He is currently the director of Jiangsu Provincial Painting and Calligraphy Association, vice chairman of Writers Association of Xuzhou City, as well as the head of the editing department at Jiangsu Normal University *News*. Liu has published over 3 million characters' worth of short stories as well as a novel, *Rich Mine*, which has been widely acclaimed and was named a finalist for the 8th Mao Dun Literature Prize.

Zhang Yuntao 张运涛, was born in Zhengyang County, Henan province in 1968 and made his debut in *Poetry News* in 1988. A graduate of Huanghuai University, Henan University, and the Lu Xun Academy of Literature, he has authored nearly 100 essays. His fiction has appeared in numerous periodicals and is widely anthologized. A short story collection, *Warm Cotton*, was published in 2011. His awards include the 20th Liang Bin Award for Fiction, and the First and Second Renaissance Literary Awards. He taught at No. 2 Senior High School in Zhengyang County until 2009 and now works for the County Federation of Literary and Art Circles.

Sun Wei is a novelist, short-story writer and essayist born in 1973 in Shanghai to a family of intellectuals. She received her BA in journalism from Fudan University in 1996 and her master's in International Business Administration from Shanghai University of Finance and Economics in 2001. She began writing fairy tales and novels in her teenage years, examining the theme of social malaise in an increasingly materialistic world, with a fickle and fast-developing economy in China as the social background. She has published 13 books and over 20 novels and novelettes.

Mao Juzhen 毛菊珍, whose pen name is A Mao, was born in Xiantao, Hubei Province and began writing poetry in the late 1980s. She has published five collections of poems, three collections of prose and the short story collections *Apple on the Cup* (1996), *Desire* (1999), *Who Takes Me Home* (2005), and *The Eternal Life in Love* (2011). She has won the Annual Poet Prize from *Poetry Monthly*, the 7th Chinese National Youth Poet Award from *Poetry Periodical*, and her work has been included among The Best Love Poems for the Year 2009. From August 2009 to Aug 2010, she was the poet-in-residence in Capital Normal University in Beijing.

Amelia Gray is the author of *AM/PM* (Featherproof Books) and *Museum of the Weird* (FC2), for which she won the 2008 Ronald Sukenick Innovative Fiction Prize. Her first novel, *THREATS*, was published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux. Her writing has appeared in

Tin House, *American Short Fiction*, *McSweeney's*, and *DIAGRAM*, among others.

Dora Malech was born in New Haven, Connecticut in 1981. She earned a BA in Fine Arts from Yale College and an MFA in Poetry from the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop. She has been the recipient of a Glenn Schaeffer Poetry Award, a Writer's Fellowship at the Civitella Ranieri Center in Italy, and a 2010 Ruth Lilly Poetry Fellowship. She is the author of two collections of poetry, *Shore Ordered Ocean*, and *Say So*. Her poems have appeared in numerous publications, including *The New Yorker*, *Poetry*, *Best New Poets*, and *American Letters & Commentary*. She has taught writing at the University of Iowa Writers' Workshop; Victoria University's International Institute of Modern Letters in Wellington, New Zealand; and Saint Mary's College of California in Moraga, California, where she served as Distinguished Poet-in-Residence in 2010. She lives in Iowa City, where she directs the Iowa Youth Writing Project.

Kaui Hart Hemmings was born and raised in Hawaii. She has degrees from Colorado College and Sarah Lawrence and was a Stegner Fellow at Stanford University. She is the author of the story collection *House of Thieves* and of the novel *The Descendants*, which has been published in fifteen countries and adapted for the screen by director by Alexander Payne.

Dan O'Brien's projects include *The Body of an American*, winner of the L. Arnold Weissberger Award and the Edward M. Kennedy Prize for

Drama, and *Theotokia / The War Reporter*, an opera premiering at Stanford University in 2013. Previous productions include *The Cherry Sisters Revisited* (Actors Theatre of Louisville), *The House in Hydesville* (Geva Theatre Center), *The Dear Boy* (Second Stage Theatre), and *Moving Picture* (Williamstown Theatre Festival). He has served as a Hodder Fellow at Princeton University, the inaugural Djerassi Fellow in Playwriting at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and twice as the Tennessee Williams Fellow at The University of the South (Sewanee). Residencies include the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center, O'Neill National Playwrights Conference, Yaddo, and the Thomas J. Watson Foundation. O'Brien's poetry has appeared recently in *Missouri Review*, *Malahat Review*, *Poetry Review*, *North American Review*, and elsewhere.



Life of Discovery Chinese delegation visits the Mississippi River.

MORE INFO

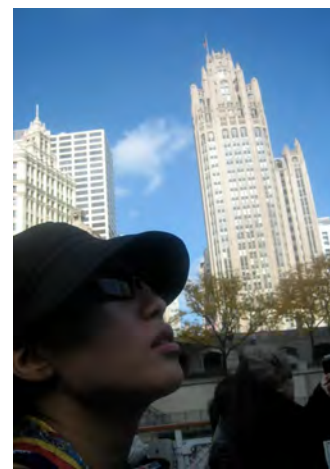
<http://iwp.uiowa.edu/programs/life-of-discovery/2012>



Clockwise from upper left: the view from the bridge during Life of Discovery writers' visit to the water village of Zhouzhuang; U.S. writer Dan O'Brien exploring Shanghai's historic alleyways; Life of Discovery writers participating in a joint creative work session; meeting with the Shanghai Writers' Association; Life of Discovery Writers panel discussion; collaborating to create new work during a joint work session on the theme "Writing the City"; the Chinese and American delegations write together during a joint creative work session in Shanghai on July 3rd, 2012; and (at center) Life of Discovery writers exchange ideas over a shared meal.



Clockwise from upper left: Life of Discovery writers collaborating with Iowa Youth Writing Project students; Sun Wei speaks at the Dane Family Farm Dinner; in front of the historic home of civil rights pioneer Alexander Clark; collaborative theatre workshop; at the gate of Chicago's Chinatown; giving a public reading at Shambaugh House, on a boat tour of Chicago architecture; A Mao takes a moment of writing time with University of Iowa mascot Herky in the background; testing out the largest rocking chair in Iowa; and discussing translation (at center) aboard Mississippi riverboat Celebration Belle.



BOOK WINGS

CULTURAL EXCHANGE THROUGH COLLABORATIVE BILINGUAL THEATRE

On March 9th, 2012 at 10 a.m., a crowd of 135 theatregoers assembled in a black-box theatre in the University of Iowa Theatre Building in Iowa City. At the same time—8 p.m. in Moscow, 10 time zones and more than 5,000 miles away—an audience at the Moscow Art Theatre, one of Europe's most revered stages (co-founded by Stanislavsky, the site of Chekhov and Gorky premieres) settled into their seats. These audiences, along with Internet viewers around the globe, were about to experience the inaugural performance of *Book Wings*, a three-year collaborative bilingual theatre project digitally connecting writers, theatre arts professionals, and new media specialists to stage unified dramatic performances of literary works.

This groundbreaking theatre initiative commissioned eight young, distinguished American and Russian poets to produce poems on the central theme of *Contact*, a theme developed by the Culture Sub-Working Group of the U.S.-Russian Bilateral Presidential Commission, where the idea for *Book Wings* first took shape. The commissioned poems were then translated, with commissioned poets working to refine the translations of their counterparts' work. Six months of planning, problem-solving, and collaboration with the Moscow Art Theatre, the University of Iowa Department of Theatre Arts, Information Technology Services, University of Iowa



Television, and the Virtual Writing University led to a first-of-its kind co-production that integrated artistic and production teams an ocean apart, and gave audiences around the world a chance to interact with the performers via an embedded Twitter feed and during a live talk-back session following the performance. "Apart from the considerable technical challenges, there is the challenge implicit in any cultural exchange: to find a fruitful means of communication, which engages artists from

different cultures at their deepest levels, where new ideas and insights may come into being," said IWP Director Christopher Merrill.

Book Wings provides a blueprint for other institutions wishing to further cultural exchange through artistic collaboration. *Book Wings* 2013 will feature drama (and expand to include both Russia and China), and in 2014 will feature prose writers, in Russia and Iraq.

IN THE UNITED STATES:

Terrance Hayes is the author of *Lighthouse* (Penguin 2010), winner of the 2010 National Book Award and finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award and Hurston Wright award. His other poetry books are *Wind in a Box*, *Muscular Music*, and *Hip Logic*. His honors include two Pushcart Prizes, five *Best American Poetry* selections, a Whiting Writers Award, a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, and a Guggenheim Fellowship. He is a professor of creative writing at Carnegie Mellon University and lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Dora Malech see page 20 for bio.

Matthew Zapruder is the author of three collections of poetry, most recently *Come on All You Ghosts* (Copper Canyon, 2010). His poems, essays, and translations have appeared in many publications, including *Bomb*, *Slate*, *Poetry*, *Tin House*, *Paris Review*, *The New Republic*, *The*

New Yorker, *The Believer*, *Real Simple*, and *The Los Angeles Times*. He has received a 2011 Guggenheim Fellowship, a William Carlos Williams Award, a May Sarton Award from the Academy of American Arts and Sciences, and a Lannan Literary Fellowship. He works as an editor for Wave Books, and teaches as a member of the core faculty of UCR-Palm Desert's Low Residency MFA in Creative Writing. He lives in San Francisco.

Born in Saigon and raised on Boston's north shore, **Quan Barry** is Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Barry has published three books of poetry (*Asylum*, *Controvertibles*, and *Water Puppets*) with the University of Pittsburgh Press, and her work has appeared in such journals as *Ms.* and *The New Yorker*. Among her awards are a 2003 NEA Fellowship, a Pushcart Prize, and a Wallace Stegner Fellowship at Stanford University. Her first two-act play titled *The Mytilenian Debate* was a 2010 finalist for both the Eugene O'Neill National Playwriting Conference and the Lark Development Center's Playwrights' Week. Currently she directs the MFA Program in Creative Writing at the University of Wisconsin.

IN RUSSIA:

Maxim Amelin, a poet, translator, essayist, researcher, and publisher. He served in the Russian Army, and studied at the Literary Institute in St. Petersburg. His poetry, articles, and essays have appeared in many literary journals. His works include the poetry collections *Kholodnye ody* (*Cold Odes*, 1996), *Kon' Gorgony* (*The Horse of the Gorgon*, 2003),

and a collection of essays and poetry, *Gnutaia rech* (*Curved Thing*, 2011). He also translates from Ancient Greek (Pindar), Latin (Catullus), Italian (Antonino Vivaldi), Georgian (Nikoloz Bartashvili), and Ukrainian (Vasyl Makhno). His own works have been widely translated. His prizes include the *Mosckovskii schet* (Moscow Score, 2004) and two "Poetry of the Year" nominations in the national "Book of the Year" competition. He is a member of the Russian PEN Center and the Guild of Literary Translators. He directed the publishing house *Symposium* from 1995-2007 and is currently Editor-in-Chief for OGI Press.

Linor Goralik is a fiction writer, poet, essayist, children's author, journalist, translator, and visual artist. Born in Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine in 1975, she immigrated to Israel in 1989 and then to Moscow in 2001. Her books include: *No* (a novel co-authored with Sergey Kuznetsov) and *Half of the Sky* (with Stanislav Lvovsky); *Not Children's Food*; and *Long Story Short* and the poetry collections *Non-Locals* and *Catch Them, Piter*. She is also the author of the children's books *Agatha Returns Home* and *Martin Never Cries*. Her essays and journalism are widely published and include *Hollow Woman: Barbie's World Inside Out*. Her works have been translated into English, French, Italian, and Chinese. As a translator from English/Hebrew, she has published two books of Etgar Keret's prose as well as a poetry book by Vitautas Pliura (in cooperation with Stanislav Lvovsky). She is also the author of *Hare PZ!* comic books.

Inga Kuznetsova was born in 1974 in a village

on the Black Sea near Krasnodar and grew up in the academic community of Protvino before moving to Moscow. She graduated from the Department of Journalism at Moscow State University and later studied philosophy. She has worked as an editor at literary journals, and as a literary columnist for Radio Russia. She won the Pushkin National Poetry Prize in 1994 and the Triumph Youth Prize in 2003. Her first collection of poems, *Sni-Sinitsi*, won the *Moskovskii schet* (Moscow Score) Prize for Best Debut. Her second collection, *Vnutrennee zrenie* was declared one of Moscow's ten best books of the year. In 2010, Kuznetsova represented Russia at the Tenth International PEN Festival in New York City. Her verse has appeared in many journals and anthologies, and been translated into English, French, Polish, Chinese and Georgian.

Anna Russ was born in 1981 in Kazan. She won the Pokolenie Prize for Best Debut in 2002 in the category of Children's Literature and in 2010 she won the Triumph Youth Prize. Her poems have appeared in French and German.

MORE INFO

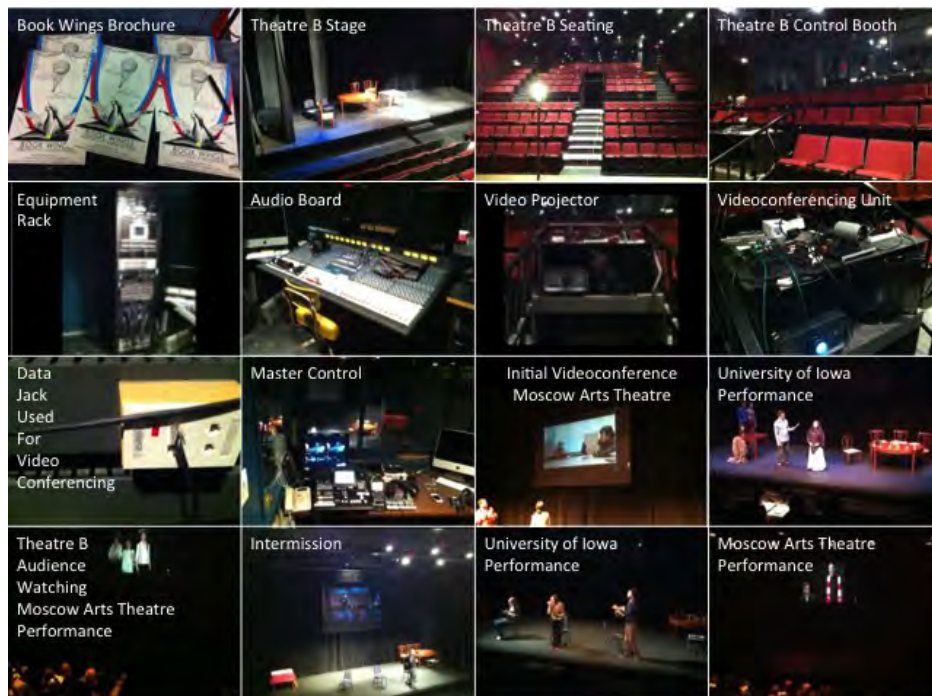
For more on Book Wings, including video and a PDF of the program which includes all the commissioned poems and their translations:

<http://iwp.uiowa.edu/programs/book-wings/2012>

For more on the technical aspects:

<http://iwp.uiowa.edu/blogs/2012-03-08/building-book-wings>

<http://its.uiowa.edu/support/article/100579>



Clockwise from upper right: Moscow Art Theatre actors performing the poems of U.S. poet Quan Barry on the Moscow Stage; Iowa City stage translator Russell Valentino with Iowa City emcee Chris Merrill; Moscow Art Theatre actors performing the poems of Russian poet Inga Kuznetsova; Iowa City stage manager Rebecca Tritten speaking with Moscow Art Theatre team during a test call.

BETWEEN THE LINES

A SUMMER WRITING PROGRAM FOR TEENS FROM RUSSIA & THE ARABIC WORLD



Between the Lines Russia's inaugural group.

RUSSIA

2012 was a year of firsts for Between the Lines: a session with Russian students was added as a complement to the Arabic-speaking program, and it was the first year BTL existed as an independent program fully operated by the IWP. The inaugural BTL Russia session took place June 30 – July 14, with American and Russian students joining IWP's camp instructors, writer Alan Cherchesov and poet Camille Dungy. The meeting of the two great traditions of Russian and American writing styles initiated a dynamic conversation that continued long after the participants left the Shambaugh House.

With a new program comes new opportunities: mornings found the group engaged in a world literatures class where they learned to read like

writers, while afternoons were devoted to creative writing workshops in each youth's choice of either English or Russian. The participants also expanded their literary world by participating in two online skype seminars led by IWP alumni Hinemoana Baker in New Zealand and Chandrahas Choudhury in India. Evenings were devoted to a range of cultural exchange activities, such as "BTL Cinematheque", a miniature version of the IWP's fall residency film series. Each group of students was invited to suggest films to show; the Russians chose a series of short cartoons featuring the popular character Cheburashka, while the Americans selected the Stanley Kubrick film *Dr. Strangelove*. A trip to nearby ZJ Farm included a hayride, a Russian-American dinner, and a bonfire, while a visit to the Buffalo Bill Museum explored the history of an American icon. In turn, the Russian students attempted to teach the Americans a little of their language and alphabet in two sessions of "Russian 101", and all attended a bilingual reading by their instructors at Prairie Lights Bookstore. The group celebrated their graduation and creation of an anthology with a talent show, and in the end this group of strangers became close-knit friends and writing peers.

Instructors

Alan Cherchesov • [Bulgaria](#)
Camille Dungy • [California](#)

Chaperones

Yuliya Tarasenkova • [Smolensk](#)
Chourouq Nasri • [Morocco](#)

Participants

Anastasia Dyachenko • [Moscow](#)

Alexander Gubarev • [Syktyvar](#)

Darya Kotova • [Smolensk](#)

Elena Kudryavkina • [Smolensk](#)

Leonid Kuzmenko • [Novosibirsk](#)

Sofiko Labzhaniya • [Voronezh](#)

Alexandra Samarina • [Moscow](#)

Margarita Shcheglova • [Moscow](#)

Tatiana Siatchikhina • [Krasnodar](#)

Danila Trofimov • [Moscow](#)

Rhowen Dalrymple • [Colorado](#)

Patricia Kelly • [New York](#)

Hannah Meshulam • [Maryland](#)

Jacob Oet • [Ohio](#)

Annie Rydland • [Colorado](#)

Margaret Shultz • [Iowa](#)



From upper left: Daily creative writing workshop; Online workshop with IWP alumnus Chandrahas Choudhury; Students and BTL instructor Camille Dungy in class (at center); Hayride at ZJ Farm near Solon, Iowa; At the Pappa John's Sculpture Park in Des Moines, Iowa; Walking the fields at ZJ Farm in Solon, IA.





Between the Lines Arabic World participants on a field trip to Lake MacBride.

THE ARABIC WORLD

The fifth year of IWP hosting Arabic-speaking students saw us jumping in feet first, literally: the BTL participants met their American counterparts at Lake MacBride State Park for a refreshing dip after a long flight before continuing on to Iowa City for two weeks of writing and cultural exchange. 2012's BTL Arabic session welcomed students and chaperones from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and the Palestinian Territories (Gaza and West Bank), students from the US and Canada, and poet Marcus Jackson and writer Iman Humaydan as instructors.

The young writers spent their mornings attending a world literatures seminar co-taught by Jackson and Humaydan, and then honed their craft in the afternoons with either an English or Arabic creative writing workshop. They also connected with other writing role

models: during the session they had two online workshops, led via skype by IWP alumna Bina Shah in Karachi, Pakistan and writer Rae Bryant in Baltimore, Maryland. After a day of writing, reading, and discussing craft, the group brought their energy to a range of evening activities. They held two sessions of "Arabic 101", at which the Arab students attempted to teach the Americans a little of their language and alphabet. They hunted for fossils and paddle-boated on the Coraville Reservoir. A student reading found them sharing work in Arabic and English as well as Chinese, Japanese, and Tamazight, the local language of one student's region. They became dramaturges for a night at a theatre workshop.

Since Ramadan overlapped with the session, the participants were treated to not one, but two Iftar dinners by local Islamic organizations and restaurants. The group attended readings by their instructors at Prairie Lights Bookstore, held a talent show, compiled an anthology of writing created during the session, explored Iowa City and connected with writers and peers from different parts of the world. The question should not be, "What did BTL participants do this year", but rather "What didn't they do?".

ON THE WEB

<http://iwp.uiowa.edu/programs/between-the-lines>

ON FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/btlwriters>



Instructors

Iman Humaydan • [Lebanon](#)

Marcus Jackson • [Tennessee](#)

Chaperones

Abdelrehim Mady • [Egypt](#)

Chourouq Nasri • [Morocco](#)

Students

Mohammed Albaz • [Palestinian Territories](#)

Amira Ali Bouaouina • [Algeria](#)

Salma Ammar • [Egypt](#)

Ikram Gagaoua • [Algeria](#)

Sayed Ali Kadhem • [Bahrain](#)

Hiba Kahouli • [Tunisia](#)

Imane Kasraoui • [Morocco](#)

Lahoucine Oumansour • [Morocco](#)

Youssef Smaoui • [Tunisia](#)

Rawan Yaghi • [Palestinian Territories](#)

Fawzi Zghyer • [Palestinian Territories](#)

Fares Zubari • [Bahrain](#)

Audrey Cleaver-Bartholomew • [New York](#)

Alyssa Cokinis • [Iowa](#)

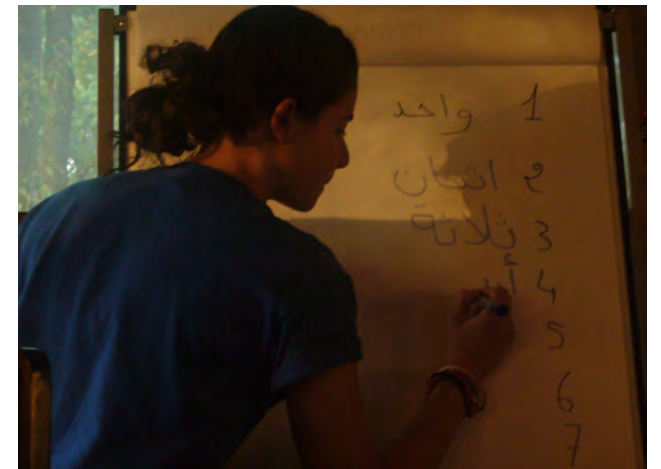
Billie Flaming • [Iowa](#)

Lucy Heller • [Maryland](#)

Tarpley Hitt • [Connecticut](#)



Clockwise from upper left: Online workshop with writer Rae Bryant; Paddleboating on the Coraville Reservoir; Participant Salma A. helping with an Arabic 101 lesson; BTL Instructors Marcus Jackson and Iman Humaydan; Playwright and teacher Kim Euell and students in a theatre workshop; Between the Lines Arabic World group picture during a visit to the Islamic Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



OVESEAS READING TOURS

TAKING U.S. WRITERS ABROAD FOR CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, & CREATIVE EXCHANGE



IWP delegation at Angkor Wat Cambodia.

In 2012, reading and lecture tours took small groups of American writers around the globe. For the U.S. participants, this was an opportunity to gain an understanding of each country's unique cultural and physical landscape, and the complex environment of its literatures. In return, the writers conducted readings, talks, class visits, workshops with students and faculty members, and meetings with artists and writers. In the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo, workshops and lectures were conducted largely in French. In Brazil, an audience enjoyed the results of a jazz/poetry collaboration between the IWP writers and a Brazilian jazz quartet. Hundreds of Cambodian students attended their first-ever writing workshop, while in Vietnam the American writers spent several days discussing their craft with writers from the

Vietnamese Writers Association. In Mozambique and in Zimbabwe, hours were spent in classrooms, talking with youth interested in writing; the trip culminated in the delegation being received as special guests at the Youth Cultural Arts Festival dedicated to the power of the pen.

These tours were made possible in partnership with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and the U.S. Embassies and Consulates in each country.

Democratic Republic of Congo and Congo

February 2012

Annie Finch
Poetry

Laird Hunt
Fiction, Translation

Sheryl St. Germain
Poetry, Nonfiction, Translation

Christopher Merrill
Poetry, Nonfiction

Brazil

May 2012

Maria José Barbosa
Literary Analysis
Alison Deming
Poetry, Nonfiction
Cornelius Eady
Poetry

Alan Heathcock

Fiction

Christopher Merrill

Poetry, Nonfiction

Vietnam and Cambodia

May and June 2012

Jon Davis

Poetry

Jane Mead

Poetry

Quan Barry

Fiction, Playwriting

Eleni Sikelianos

Poetry

Christopher Merrill

Poetry, Nonfiction

Mozambique and Zimbabwe

August 2012

Ellen Doré Watson

Poetry, Translation

Thomas Mallon

Fiction, Nonfiction

Camille T. Dungy

Poetry, Essay

Bob Shacochis

Fiction, Nonfiction

Christopher Merrill

Poetry, Nonfiction



Clockwise from upper left: Bob Shacochis and Ellen Dore Watson with students at the American Center in Maputo, Mozambique; writing exercise in Kinshasa; closing ceremony for workshops in Brazzaville; collaborative session with Vietnamese Writers Association; poet Eleni Sikelianos works one-on-one with a student on a writing exercise.

"It doesn't matter in which country, in which culture you live, how old are you, which language you speak—if you are a writer, you have a special view on life, on yourself, and a special way of living."

-Lucy Fricke, 2012 IWP Fall Resident, Germany



DISTANCE LEARNING

BRINGING OUR LITERARY RESOURCES TO STUDENTS AROUND THE WORLD

With the addition of two open enrollment courses and the establishment of exciting new partnerships, 2012 proved to be a landmark year for the Distance Learning (DL) corner of the IWP. For the past three years, DL has worked to introduce creative writing programming to communities with limited access to American writers and pedagogies as well as to foster cultural dialogue between student groups across the world. Through advanced technology—course websites, live video conferences, and web 2.0 multimedia—IWP DL has offered a variety of creative writing programming, from full-length courses to shorter series to one-time presentations. Over the course of the year, DL has reached writers far and wide, forging a virtual bridge from Iowa City to Mexico, Sierra Leone, Gaza, Iraq, and New Zealand, among others.

Be it an introductory creative writing course, a full-length workshop, or a multi-genre series, DL creates programming in accordance with the following goals: 1) to reach out to underserved communities with limited or no access to creative writing programming; 2) to develop creative writing pedagogical templates; and 3) to foster a cultural exchange through writing.

Writing prompts and discussions in full-term classes explored a wide-range of topics, including global immigration narrative, the role

of self in poetry, and the resistance of traditional modes of storytelling in post-modern fiction. One-time presentations connected students at the University of Iowa with writers abroad and provided the opportunity for emerging and established writers to interact with each other as part of a global community.

Courses & Series:

Spring 2012

International Issues in Creative Non-Fiction Fiction Workshop

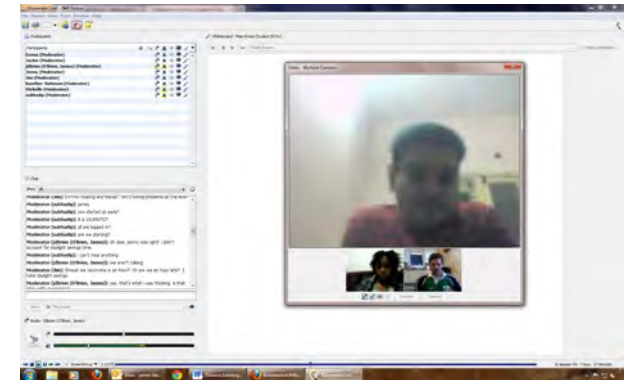
Creative Writing and the World

Fall 2012

Introduction to Creative Writing

Multi-Genre Creative Writing Series

Six-to-fifteen-week courses, situated at the core of DL, aim to provide a virtual classroom environment and a forum for students and instructors to communicate outside of class. Secure course websites, live sessions, and video chats are used to foster an enriching creative dialogue and uphold an in-person dimension to virtual learning, a cornerstone of the workshop model. Through such multimedia outlets, students are able to gain valuable feedback on their writing as well as interact



A screen-grab from a fiction workshop as participants join the Elluminate Live! session.

with their peers both in and outside of virtual classroom sessions.

While the majority of DL offerings are developed in direct collaboration with a partner institution and are available only to students from that institution, DL proudly offered two open enrollment courses during the Spring 2012 term. The first, "International Issues in Creative Non-Fiction," invited writers from Tijuana, Mexico and Iowa City, U.S. to explore dualities that often occupy the creative non-fiction genre: the subjective and the objective, the domestic and the global, the personal and the political, and the fictional and the factual. The second open course offering, a fiction workshop jointly taught by James O'Brien and Ghada Abdel Aal, brought writers from the U.S. and abroad together to explore the idea of reading as a writer as a means to generate one's own prose.

Poet Lauren Haldeman teaching students in Gaza.



In "Creative Writing and the World," the IWP partnered with LEAP (Leaders Educated As Philanthropists) to connect high school students and instructors in Sierra Leone with students enrolled at the Brooks School in Andover, MA. Distance Learning kicked off the fall term with a year-long multi-genre series, in which American writers led sessions on a variety of creative writing genres to students and scholars in Baghdad, Iraq. From September to November, poet and Iowa Writers' Workshop alum Lauren Haldeman taught "Introduction to Creative Writing," a course split evenly between poetry and fiction, to students attending Al Azhar University in Gaza.

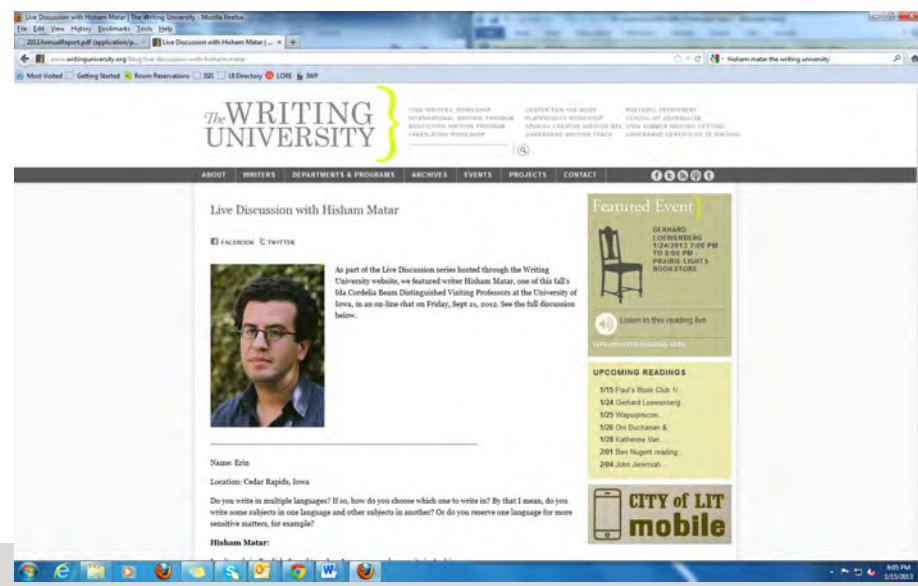
Collaborations & Events:

Between the Lines •India/New Zealand/Pakistan/Saudi Arabia
Maori and Taiwi Literature •Wellington, New Zealand
Live Chat with Hisham Matar •Iowa City, Iowa

MORE AT: <http://iwp.uiowa.edu/iwp-courses/distance-learning-courses>

This year saw the onset of exciting new collaborations between DL and a variety of programs, including Between the Lines, an IWP program that brings young writers to the University of Iowa for creative writing study (see page 26), and the University of Iowa's Honors Program, which enrolls freshman undergraduates in advanced seminars. Throughout 2012, DL offered videoconference events, which engaged domestic and international writers through the University of Iowa's IT facilities, as well as a live Q&A session with Ida Beam Distinguished Visiting Professor, Hisham Matar.

In the spring, DL connected Between the Lines students with former IWP residents Chandrabhas Choudury (India 2010), Bina Shah (Pakistan 2011), Hinemoana Baker (New Zealand 2010), and Hanaa Hijazi (Saudi Arabia 2009) through virtual discussions of the writing process, travel and place-based writing, and the elements of storytelling. In collaboration with the University of Iowa's Honors Program, DL linked New Zealand-based poet Hinemoana Baker with undergraduates enrolled in the first-year honors seminar "Learning about the Social World from Fiction" for a lecture on major contemporary Māori poetry and fiction. DL and The Virtual Writing University (see page 34) also coordinated a live Q&A session with Ida Beam Distinguished Visiting Professor Hisham Matar during his one-week visit to Iowa City.



THE VIRTUAL WRITING UNIVERSITY

COLLABORATING WITH THE UNESCO CITY OF LITERATURE TO SPARK NEW CONNECTIONS

The Virtual Writing University (VWU) is, primarily, the creative portal for the University of Iowa's writing community. Working closely with the City of Iowa City, the UNESCO City of Literature, and the numerous creative writing programs at the University of Iowa, the VWU is updated daily to represent the vibrant local literary scene and serves simultaneously as a dynamic repository of Iowa City-related writing news, an event hub, and media treasure trove.

In 2012, the VWU added over 20 new authors to its iPhone app "City of Lit," which features information on Iowa City's rich literary history, including an interactive map of unique literary locations – where authors wrote and lived, worked, read, and haunted.

The VWU hosted the Book Wings 2012 live streaming and twitter feed – accruing 299 single page views during the broadcast with 75.76% new site visitors and views from Russia, China, India, England, the U.S., Germany, the Czech Republic and elsewhere. The VWU also streamed and archived more than 150 events during the year, adding to an extensive archive that includes over 700 audio and video recordings of past IWP events. The IWP is proud to work hand-in-hand with VWU on a number of other projects, including live discussions and digital video conferences, all projects that serve to expand the virtual space in which writers the world around can meet, share ideas, exchange writings, and spark new connections.



On September 21, 2012 the VWU featured an online chat with Libyan novelist Hisham Matar.

Support for the Virtual Writing University comes from many different areas of the University of Iowa community. We are grateful for the many staff and faculty members who have contributed their creative, technological, and administrative expertise to this initiative.

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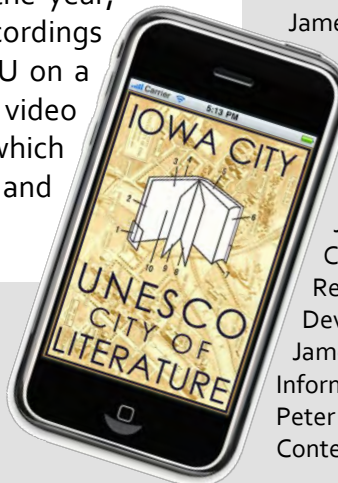
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MORE INFO:

Visit the Virtual Writing University at:

<http://www.writinguniversity.org>

Visit the UNESCO City of Literature at:

<http://cityofliteratureusa.org>

WHITMAN WEB

A MULTIMEDIA, MULTILINGUAL GALLERY BASED ON "SONG OF MYSELF"

WALT WHITMAN—SONG OF MYSELF

English فارسی Français Deutsch Português Русский Español Українська 中文

General Introduction

Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself" is the great American epic poem and has often been read as the poem that best captures the tensions and conflicting qualities that define what we might call the "American democratic self." [\[click to expand/collapse for more\]](#)

Foreword to Section 17

In this very brief section, Whitman continues the contraction of his poem from the long catalogue two sections earlier. Now he offers a simple and straightforward claim: everything he has said in the poem up to this point is "not original with me" but rather has been thought by "all men in all ages and lands." What is original with him is the articulation of these commonplace thoughts: we all have *thought* these things, but only the poet *expresses* them. That is the nature of poetry—to make us suddenly aware of something we knew at some level before but only now have experienced it in language. Whitman goes on to insist that, if "Song of Myself" is to be successful, it has to actually and fully enter your mind, to read as if you yourself are thinking the thoughts that the poet is expressing. The magic of any powerful poem is that the distance between the reader and the author evaporates: the Walt Whitman who wrote this poem may be 150 years removed from us, and we may be reading him thousands of miles from where he wrote these words, but—in the act of reading—the thoughts come to seem "just as close as they are distant." We all inhabit bodies, from minds



This most celebrated text in American poetry appears in its original 1891 version, accompanied by translations into Chinese, French, German, Russian, Ukrainian, Spanish, Portuguese and — commissioned specially for the IWP—for the first time, in Persian. The weekly dose of Whitman, bracketed by a historical-

With the scholarly assistance of the University of Iowa-affiliated Walt Whitman Archive and in partnership with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the Department of State, the IWP launched WhitmanWeb, a gallery of poetry, commentaries, recordings and images presenting each week a new installment of Whitman's canonic "Song of Myself."

ly-leaning introduction (by Whitman scholar Ed Folsom) and a meditative afterword (by poet Christopher Merrill), and accompanied by a question to the reader, is a way of digitally magnifying Whitman's shimmering language through several prisms, but also an opportunity to study that voice's endurance across other languages, with an immediacy and ease nearly impossible with hard copies.

Read the poem, listen to audio recordings, and join the conversation:

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

Visit Whitman Web on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/WhitmanWeb>



An introduction to "Song of Myself" in Persian.



A section of the poem in Chinese.



IWP PUBLICATIONS & FILMS

NEW COLLABORATIONS ACROSS GENRES AND LANGUAGES

A new volume, *The New Symposium: Writers and Poets on What We Hold in Common*, appeared in the 91st Meridian Books series the IWP maintains in the catalogue of the independent publisher Autumn Hill Books. In this collection, nearly two dozen writers from all over the globe ponder themes of recurrent and universal relevance—pursuit of justice, the embattled commons, home and its losses—from the vantage point of deeply engaged non-specialists.

Like every year we have also captured the fall residency in a bank of images and sounds: the 2012 installment of our *On the Map* series,



Battery Dance Company dancer interpreting the work of Zimbabwean writer Christopher Mlalazi (at podium).

available on the program's YouTube channel, collaboration between a group of writers from features fourteen short but revealing the residency and an equal number of young interviews with writers from Afghanistan dancers from the Manhattan-based Battery through Egypt to Myanmar and many places Dance Company around one shared keyword. between. Finally, *Of Words and Touch and To find out what that word is, and watch Dance*, a short film by the filmmaker Jeff Arak, bodies dance to words, find and watch it on the captures the delicately articulated IWP web site.

THE NEW SYMPOSIUM

[http://autumnhillbooks.org/
New_Symposium.html](http://autumnhillbooks.org/New_Symposium.html)

ON THE MAP, BATTERY DANCE, & OTHER IWP FILMS

<http://www.youtube.com/user/lowalWP>

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A VISIT TO THE DANE FAMILY'S FARM

IT COULD HAVE BEEN just another event, and we writers had already had many such during our residency. Sometimes I thought it was all too social, and sometimes felt tired because of too much talk, too many introductions. But the harvest party at the Danes' turned out to not be just another party: it was very special. Coming back from the farm I told the writers who had missed the outing that this had been the most wonderful party we have been to in all our time here. And that was the truth.

I don't know the reason, exactly. I simply felt the warm hearts of the people there, and really enjoyed talking to anyone who wanted

ON SUNDAY, October 28th, one of the scheduled activities of the International Writing Program was a visit to the Dane family farm. Because of my long-standing love for farmers' lives, I was excited. On arrival we were greeted by the lovely smiles of the Dane family, their children and grandchildren—but the warmest welcomes came from the octogenarian Mr. and Mrs. Dane.

Simplicity was the dominant feature of the household, despite the family's obvious wealth. After a special tour of the farm on a tractor, we met nearly a hundred Iowans in the farm's dining hall; then, following the rich dinner, father John welcomed his guests by saying: "It has been twenty-five years since we, as an American family, have

been inviting authors involved in the IWP to visit our farm and to enjoy my wife's cooking as well as the ice cream from our own factory. Thank you, dear writers who have honored us with your visit. Today we would like you to see a different face of our own Iowa City." Then he requested that we each present a brief impression of the IWP and the city, now that we had spent more than two months here. When it was my turn, I said: "I am a novelist and short-story writer from Kuwait." After a short pause, I went on: "As Arabs, we know the Americans above all through their foreign policies toward our countries. So we are familiar with the country's stern military face. However, our presence in Iowa City, selected by UNESCO to be the country's literary capital, gave us the chance to see the face of

to talk to me. I didn't need any social mask. Perhaps it was the attitude of the Danes: they seemed to take it for granted that they were sharing their harvest and feasting with others. They seemed to think life is sharing. I laughed a lot, talked heart to heart, and savored decent home-cooked food, as if I were one of their extended their family.

Now Mrs. Dane has passed away. I remember her warmth when I hugged her, saying goodbye. Our heartfelt sympathy to Mr. Dane and the rest of the family. Memories of love do not fade away.

Choi Myoung-sook, IWP 2012
Playwright, South Korea

this country and of the American people differently. The town is filled with science students from all over the world—over forty thousand students, including all Arab nationalities. It is a city that celebrates culture and art in all its forms of life: its streets are paved with bricks engraved with poems and pictures of writers and artists. People here are not involved with politics, and the Danes' invitation this afternoon has offered a beautiful bridge, which has brought us together as human beings, in love and peace. I wish the Americans would always build bridges to the world in a similarly welcoming and peaceful manner."

Taleb Alrefai, IWP 2012
Fiction writer, Kuwait

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With gratitude for the three decades of hospitality and grace that Allegra and John Dane extended to the world's writers, visiting the University of Iowa through the International Writing Program. Allie's pies and warmth remain unforgettable.

Christopher Merrill and the IWP staff, December 2012





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