

# ANNUAL REPORT 2013



International  
Writing Program





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## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is not always apparent, but behind the inspiring programs and projects that the International Writing Program undertakes, pulse invisible networks whose filaments are vital to our success and ongoing evolution: networks of alumni, of partner institutions and fellow hosts, of literary traditions that jump borders to inspire new works; networks of scholars and artists, of government agencies spread across different continents, dedicated to cultural exchange; networks of local friends and long-time supporters, of hospitality and mutual concern and study; networks embedded in publishing, opened through the Internet, and created through translation, handshakes, reading, and of course writing—networks, in short, that make the IWP a hub of connection and new ideas.

This Annual Report documents our many accomplishments in 2013, and while each holds promise for catalyzing innovation, each also owes credit to the connections and program history that provide the fertile foundations. Take *WhitmanWeb*. Rolled out week by week over a year, beginning on the autumnal equinox in 2012, *WhitmanWeb* published all fifty-two sections of “Song of Myself” in English and with twelve translations, accompanied by audio files of dramatic readings of each section in both English and Persian, as well as contextualizing commentaries. The project had its roots in the work of noted Whitman scholar Ed Folsom of the University of Iowa, who provided introductions for every section and a vision for the whole, and whose online *Walt Whitman Archive* was a crucial resource. The project also built on more than fifty years of translation history at the UI, going back to when Edmund Keeley conducted the first Translation Workshop in 1963, a tradition the IWP

continues. There are strong connections to our flagship program, the Fall Residency, alumni having produced three of the new translations—into Malay by Eddin Khoo (IWP, ’02), into Russian by Alina Dadaeva (IWP, ’12), and into Filipino by Mark Angeles (IWP, ’13). At the same time, *WhitmanWeb* extends the IWP’s long-running role as an envoy of cultural diplomacy: most notably, by publishing the first-ever translation of “Song of Myself” into Persian, the project has crafted a new and, we hope, inviting bridge to writers and readers in Iran, a text in which all spirits might find common ground and multiple meanings.

What I mean to convey is that the programs and projects described in the following pages are interwoven with each other and with a long history: they are the products of scholarship and cutting-edge technology, of face-to-face exchanges and innovative teaching practices. And yet, together, they comprise only a chapter—a wonderful chapter, but only a chapter—in a story the IWP is still writing. 2014, for example, is already promising new breakthroughs, including a major project that stands on the shoulders of *WhitmanWeb*—a massive online open course dedicated to “Song of Myself.” For the IWP, in the spirit of Whitman, strives to “contain multitudes.”

I hope to see you at one of our many events or online.

With Warm Regards,

Christopher Merrill

# HORTUS:

## A SOUND INSTALLATION



The 4,000 plus literary visitors at the 2013 Iowa City Book Festival got an unexpected treat: a soundscape of synthetic birdsong. The birdsong was part of an innovative sound installation project, HORTUS, organized by Fall Resident Patrícia Portela (Portugal), IWP's inaugural Community Engagement Fellow, in collaboration with Belgian artist Christoph De Boeck. For four days in October, festival-goers, pedestrians, and community members gazed up curiously into the trees or paused to read the digital plaques along Iowa City's downtown Pedestrian Mall. All the while, a network of sensors was measuring the wind and light harvested by trees and plants as part of photosynthesis, and translating these natural economies into bird calls. The installation also reacted to human movement: a financial algorithm, taking into account solitary and crowd movement, transformed and remapped the soundscape. Then, each time visitors stopped to read or reflect, the original

sound design for the landscape returned, reflecting only the readings of natural energy. The digital plaques featured looping micro "stories" that compared economic, political, or natural terms such as *growth*, *beauty*, *regeneration*, and *time*. In addition, a guided tour led community members through the installation; a salon stirred debate on sustainability; and an evening lecture shared Portela's experiences interviewing Iowa farmers and agricultural experts. As the IWP looks ahead to all the future ways in which our visiting writers can engage with the land and people of Iowa and Iowa City, we will be guided by the echoes of those invisible birds, and by the inspiration of passersby looking up at the trees in wonder.





August 24<sup>th</sup> – November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013

As the International Writing Program nears our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Fall Residency continues to welcome new partners and new experiences into the fold. Among the roster of 34 writers from 31 countries who participated in 2013, the IWP welcomed writers from three countries new to our international literary family: Bahrain, Burundi, and Yemen. During their 81 days in the United States, the group reached more audiences than ever before, participating in around 200 events in 26 cities across 13 states and the District of Columbia (and 4 countries), all while completing well over 1,500 pages of their own writing.

During their ten weeks, the writers contributed deeply to literary communities in Iowa City and across the United States. The writers were a fundamental source of energy and conversation at the Iowa City Book Festival, and were featured at events hosted by the University of California Berkeley, Yale University, Poets House in New York City, and at many other institutions around the United States. They participated in dance, jazz, and theatre collaborations; interacted with internationally-renowned writers such as Kwame Dawes, Alice McDermott, and Marilynne Robinson; engaged young writers through the Iowa Youth Writing Project, Split This Rock in Washington D.C., and at the New Orleans Center for Creative



2013 Fall Resident Whiti Hereaka reads new work to a large crowd at Shambaugh House (IWP headquarters) on September 6, 2013 as part of the annual Shambaugh House Reading Series.

Arts and Bard Early College in New Orleans; toured the Poetry Foundation, Faulkner House Books, City Lights Bookstore, and experienced many American and Iowan cultural traditions, including attending a rodeo, visiting a local Amish community, picking apples, and joining a family-style community harvest dinner.

**“I feel, for the first time, as if I am a writer who belongs to the world. Until the IWP, I felt like a writer isolated in a city no one knew as a literary one. I feel energized...the energy of [the Residency] is unique.”**

**– Sridala Swami (India)**



# Readings, Receptions & Cultural Events

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Lili Mendoza (Panama) kicks off the annual Prairie Lights Reading Series.

8.24

Writers Arrive in Iowa

8.25

Iowa City Walking Tour

8.26

IWP Orientation

8.26

International Literature Begins

8.26

Opening Party

8.27

US Bank & Visa Orientations

8.28

Cinemathèque: *North by Northwest*

8.30

Translation Workshop Begins

8.30

Anthology Reading Series

8.31

MFA Mixer

9.1

Prairie Lights Reading Series Begins

9.2

Labor Day trip to Lake Macbride and Wilson's Orchard

9.3

Text & Context: the Iowa Model

9.4

Cinemathèque: *Offside & Prohibited*

9.5-9.8

Pittsburgh Jazz/Poetry Concert

9.5

66<sup>th</sup> Annual Tri-State Rodeo

9.6

University of Iowa Library Orientation

9.6

Translation Workshop

9.6

Shambaugh House Reading Series Begins

9.8-9.13

A Lai at multiple events in China

9.8

Prairie Lights Reading Series

9.9

International Literature Today

9.9

CIVIC Potluck Dinner

9.10

UI Course Visit led by Ambassador Ronald K. McMullen (Oscar Ranzo)



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



“The residency has powerfully effected how I view the future.” – Martin Dyar (Ireland)

9.10

Midwest Writers Reading Series:  
Dean Bakopoulos

9.11-9.17

Roland Rugero at Babel Festival  
(Switzerland)

9.11

Cinemathèque *12 Storeys* and *Post-Love*

9.12

UI Japanese Translation Course Visit  
(Yui Tanizaki)

9.13

Translation Workshop

9.13 S

Shambaugh House Reading Series

9.14

UI English Department's Fall Reception

9.15

Fulbright Alumni Visit

9.15

Prairie Lights Reading Series

9.16

Iowa Youth Writing Project  
event in Des Moines (IA) (Oscar  
Ranzo)

9.16

International Literature Today

9.16

Hualing Engle Award Ceremony

9.16

IWP Writers' Salon

9.18

UI Course Visit led by Marie Kruger (Oscar  
Ranzo)

9.18

Cinemathèque *Recollections of a Yellow  
House*

9.19-9.21

Wang Jiaxin at University of Oklahoma

9.19

Upper Iowa University: Class Visit &  
Reading

9.20

Translation Workshop

9.20

Shambaugh House Reading Series

9.20

WorldCanvass Radio Hour



“I intend to make the most  
of my experience (and my  
new title of Honorary  
Fellow in Writing) to [...] inspire many other  
Ugandans with writing  
aspirations to look up to  
follow their dreams.”

– Oscar Ranzo

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



“I’ve had a tremendous boost of confidence and clarity. Since returning [home], I’ve finished the first draft of my next novel and said ‘yes’ to opportunities locally that I last year would have steered clear of, largely because now I understand that, though I have always taken myself seriously as a writer, it’s probably smart to communicate that to others.”

– Shandana Minhas (Pakistan)

9.20

Anthology Reading Series

9.21

Draco Hill Hike

9.22

Prairie Lights Reading Series

9.22

Secrest Barn Party

9.23

International Literature Today

9.23

IWP Writers’ Salon

9.24

Martin Dyar at Loras College, (Dubuque, IA)

9.24

Text & Context: Publishing in the U.S.

9.25

UI African Studies Reception

9.25

Cinemathèque *My Mother Dreams of the Hajj*

9.26

UI Center for Asian and Pacific Studies Reception

9.26

Intellectual Freedom Festival Panel “Is This Censorship?”

9.27

Translation Workshop

9.27

Shambaugh House Reading Series

9.28

Kalona Fall Festival

9.28

Wang Jiaxin Reading at 18th Annual Watershed Environmental Poetry Festival (Berkeley, CA)

9.29

Prairie Lights Reading Series

9.30-10.4

Mid Residency Travel Period

9.30

French Quarter Walking Tour (New Orleans)

9.30

Faulkner House Books Reception (New Orleans)

10.1

San Francisco City Tour

10.1

New Orleans Center for Creative Arts Class Visit

10.1

New Orleans Center for Creative Arts Reading





**“Spending time with writers from  
all over the world has definitely  
broadened my intellectual  
horizons!”**

**– Tom Crosshill (Latvia)**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10.2

Bard Early College Class Visits (New Orleans)

10.2

Snug Harbor Jazz Concert (New Orleans)

10.3

Zeyar Lynn at University of California-Berkeley

10.3

Bayou Tour (New Orleans)

10.3

Press Street Reading (New Orleans)

10.3

Academy of Science Event (San Francisco)

10.3

UI Senior College Class Visit

10.5

Zeyar Lynn Readings in New York City

10.6

Zeyar Lynn at University of Pennsylvania

10.6

Wang Jiaxin Reading in Los Angeles

10.6

Prairie Lights Reading Series

10.7

Sridala Swami at Oberlin College

10.7

International Literature Today

10.7

IWP Writers' Salon

10.8

Downtown Dish Radio Hour

10.8

UI Science Fiction Writing Course  
(Tom Crosshill)

10.8

UI Japanese Translation Course Visit  
(Yui Tanizaki)

10.8

IWP Alumni Reading Choi Jung Lac

10.8

Seamus Heaney Memorial Reading

10.9

Drake University Visit

10.9

Iowa City Foreign Relations Council  
Dinner

10.9

Cinemathèque Poetry Films

10.10

Des Moines Central Academy Visit

10.10

UI Senior College Class Visit

**“[The Residency] has given me the  
confidence to try and write my own  
material. It has certainly improved  
my skill as a translator.”**

**– Erez Volk (Israel)**



**“We’re about to launch a PEN section in Burundi thanks to contacts I made during the Residency.”**

**– Roland Rugero**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**10.10**

UI Environmental Coalition Sustainability Lecture

**10.10-10.12**

Iowa City Book Festival (ICBF)

**10.10-10.13**

Hortus Installation

**10.10-10.14**

Kwame Dawes Visit as Ida Cordelia Beam

Distinguished Visiting Professor

**10.11**

Translation Workshop

**10.11**

Kwame Dawes Reading at Writers’ Workshop

**10.11**

Three Voices Reading at Shambaugh House

**10.11**

UI Irish Studies Conference Reading (Martin Dyar)

**10.11**

ICBF Event: Writing in the City of Literature

**10.12**

ICBF Panel: “Fiction or Fact”

**10.12**

ICBF Panel: “I Wish I Had Written That”

ICBF Panel: “A Sense of Place I”

ICBF Panel: “First Novel Experiences”

ICBF Panel: “Freedom’s Limits”

ICBF Panel: “A Sense of Place II”

ICBF Panel: “Politics and Prose”

ICBF Panel: “The New Sexualities”

ICBF Panel: “A Sense of Place III”

ICBF Panel: “At Language’s Edge”

ICBF Panel: “The Vonnegut Effect”

ICBF Panel: “Religion and Writing”

ICBF Paul Engle Award Ceremony

ICBF Event: NPR’s Cabinet of Wonders

**10.13**

Hortus Guided Tour

**10.13**

Hortus Salon

**10.13**

12th Annual Global Express

**10.14**

Iowa State University Visit

**10.14**

Kofi Awoonor Memorial Reading

**10.14**

International Literature Today

**10.14**

Prairie Lights Reading: Christopher Merrill

**10.15-10.17**

Dmitry Golynko at Yale University

**10.15**

UI Japanese Translation Course Visit (Yui Tanizaki)

**10.16**

Lili Mendoza at Grinnell College





**“I feel I learned a lot about international and American literature and culture, which would have been impossible without this residency. The IWP was perhaps the best organized and most ‘matterful’ residency I’ve ever experienced.”**

**– Dénes Krusovszky (Hungary)**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10.16

Prairie Lights Reading: Jonathan Freeman & Marilynne Robinson

10.16

Cinemathèque: *Jai Bhim Comrade*

10.17-10.19

ALTA Conference, (Indianapolis, IN)

10.17

UI Japanese Translation Course Visit (Yui Tanizaki)

10.17

Kirkwood Community College Visit

10.17

UI Senior College Class Visit

10.17

U.S. Bank Reception

10.18

Translation Workshop

10.18

Shambaugh House Reading Series

10.19

Wang Jiaxin at University of St. Louis

10.19

Effigy Mounds National Park Hike

10.20

Hillel Presentation

10.20

Prairie Lights Reading Series

10.20

Anthology Reading Series

10.21

Wang Jiaxin at Fashion Institute of Technology (SUNY)

10.21

Simon Urban at Grinnell College

10.21

Kennedy High School Visit (Cedar Rapids, IA) (Yui Tanizaki)

UI Japanese Translation Course Visit (Yui Tanizaki)

10.21 Fiona Sze-Lorrain “Bridging Cultures” Project Event

10.21

International Literature Today

10.21

Prairie Lights Reading: Fiona Sze-Lorrain

10.21

IWP Writers’ Salon

10.22

Religious Studies Colloquium Class Visit (Oscar Ranzo)

10.22

IWP Alumnus Chandrabhas Choudhury “The Indian Novel as an Agent of History” Lecture

10.22

Ida Beam Professor Wai Chee Dimock “Falling Bodies: Baghdad, Dresden, New York” Lecture



“Being in the IWP and spending time in Iowa City gave me the time to reflect on my writing and reevaluate how to approach it.”

– Ali Al Saeed (Bahrain)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

10.22

Craig Cliff Housewarming Dinner

10.23

IWP Lecture “World Novel Today”

10.23

Cinemathèque *Kin-dza-dza!*

10.24-10.26

Wang Jiaxin Award Ceremony in South Korea

10.24

UI Senior College Class Visit

10.24

Deadwood Bar Reading

10.25-10.27

Amanda Lee Koe at Singapore Writers’ Festival

10.25

Translation Workshop

10.25

Shambaugh House Reading Series

10.26-10.29

Portland Stage Company (ME)

10.27-10.29

Dmitry Golynko at University of California-Berkeley

10.27

Dane Family Harvest Celebration Dinner

10.27

Prairie Lights Reading Series

10.28

International Literature Today

10.28

UI Division of World Languages, Literatures, & Culture French Forum

10.28

Portland Stage Company From Away Performance

10.28

MFA in Literary Translation Reading

10.29

Spanish MFA in Creative Writing Reading

10.30

IWP Alumnus Peter Nazareth Reading

10.30

Cinemathèque *Four Lions*

11.1

UI Writing Center Visit

11.1

IWP Panel “What We Saw: Images of America”

11.1

UI Playwriting Department Class Visit

11.1

Translation Workshop

11.1

Shambaugh House Reading Series

11.2

UI Chinese Students and Scholars Association Event

11.2

Dance Collaboration Event



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



**“[The Residency] has changed my vision. I will never be the same.”**

**– Corinne N’Guessan (Cote d’Ivoire)**

**11.3**

Prairie Lights Reading Series

**11.3**

Closing Party

**11.4**

International Literature Today

**11.4-11.11**

Final Travel Period

**11.4**

Poetry Foundation Tour (Chicago)

**11.6**

StreetSense Meeting (Washington D.C.)

**11.6**

D.C. Youth Slam / Split This Rock Workshop (Washington D.C.)

**11.6**

Busboys & Poets Open Mic (Washington D.C.)

**11.6**

Irish Embassy Reading with Alice McDermott & Martin Dyar (Washington D.C.)

**11.7**

Meeting at Department of State

**11.7**

Washington D.C. City Tour

**11.7**

“This is Not That Dawn” Lecture at American University (Washington D.C.)

**11.7**

Busboys & Poets Open Mic (Washington D.C.)

**11.9**

Poets House Reading & Reception (New York City)

**11.11**

Writers Depart for Home

**“My experience has made me more confident as a writer – the thought of giving a reading no longer sends me into a week of panic. It also highlighted for me how privileged I am to be a writer in a pretty permissive and liberal country – I**

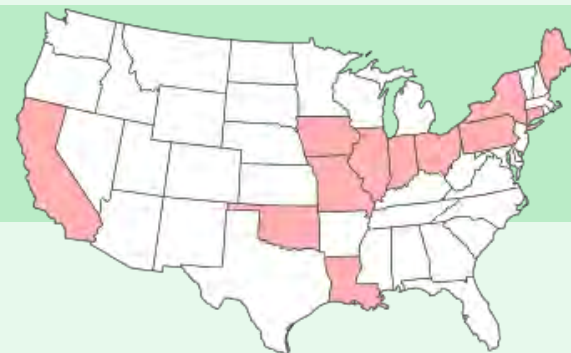
**hope that I will be bolder in my writing because of my experience at the IWP and that I will be brave in defending what I believe in.”**

**– Whiti Hereaka (New Zealand)**



# BY THE NUMBERS

2013 Fall Residents engaged with audiences  
in 4 countries (China, Switzerland, South  
Korea, Singapore) and 13 U.S. states:



In 10 weeks, Fall Residents produced more than:

**960**  
Pages of  
**Prose**

**110**  
Pages of  
**Poems**

**50**  
Pages of  
**Scripts**

Translation into Chinese, English, Finnish,  
Hebrew, Hungarian, Japanese, Portuguese,  
Spanish and other languages during the Fall  
Residency:

**500**  
Pages of works  
by others

**150**  
Pages of Fall  
Residents' work

Also during the Fall Residency:

**3,558**  
People attended  
IWP public events

**68,892**  
Visits to the  
IWP website

# Individual Events By Writer

## A Lai (China)

fiction writer, poet

*Participated courtesy of The Paul and Hualing Engle Fund*



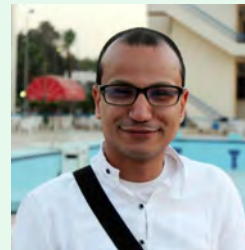
### Program Activities:

- September 26 Reception, UI Center for Asian and Pacific Studies
- October 11 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- November 2 Presentation, UI Chinese Students and Scholars Association
- November 4 Presentation, International Literature Today

## Muhammed ABDELNABI (Egypt)

fiction writer, translator

*Participated courtesy of the William B. Quarton Foundation*



### Program Activities:

- September 14 Guest, UI English Dept. Reception
- September 19 Reading and Discussion, Upper Iowa University
- September 20 Presentation, Translation Workshop
- September 21 Tour, Draco Hill Sustainable Farm
- September 28 Visit, Kalona Fall Festival
- October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "Freedom's Limits"
- October 26 Interview, 'On the Map' Series
- October 28 Presentation, International Literature Today
- October 29 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- November 2 Performance, Dance Collaboration with the UI Dept. of Dance

## Sawsan AL-AREEQE (Yemen)

poet, filmmaker

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



### Program Activities:

- September 4 Screening, Cinemathèque Film Series, *Prohibited*
- September 13 Presentation, Translation Workshop
- September 14 Guest, UI English Dept. Reception
- September 20 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- September 21 Tour, Draco Hill Sustainable Farm
- September 27 Presentation, Translation Workshop
- October 19 Hike, Effigy Mounds National Park
- October 21 Presentation, International Literature Today
- October 26 Interview, 'On the Map' Series
- November 2 Performance, Dance Collaboration with the UI Dept. of Dance
- November 4 Tour, The Poetry Foundation, Chicago (IL)

## Karim ALRAWI (Canada/UK/ Egypt)

playwright, fiction writer

*Participated courtesy of the Canada Council for the Arts and the Arts Council of British Columbia*



### Program Activities:

- September 5 Visit, Tri-State Rodeo
- September 4 Screening, Cinemathèque Film Series, *Offside*
- September 14 Guest, UI English Dept. Reception
- September 20 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- October 19 Hike, Effigy Mounds National Park
- September 22 Guest, Secrest Barn Party
- October 3 Reading and Discussion, Senior College, Johnson County Senior Center
- October 9 Reading and Discussion, Drake University
- October 12 Panel, ICBF, "Politics and Prose"
- November 1 Discussion, UI Playwriting Dept.
- November 4 Presentation, International Literature Today



## Ali AL SAEED (Bahrain)

poet, fiction writer, performer

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

### Program Activities:

- September 5 Visit, Tri-State Rodeo
- September 14 Guest, UI English Dept. Reception
- September 16 Presentation, International Literature Today
- September 21 Tour, Draco Hill Sustainable Farm
- September 28 Visit, Kalona Fall Festival
- October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "Freedom's Limits"
- October 13 Performance, Global Express Theatre Collaboration
- October 17 Reading and Discussion, Senior College, Johnson County Senior Center
- October 19 Hike, Effigy Mounds National Park
- October 27 Reading, Prairie Lights Book Store
- November 6 Visit, Street Sense Magazine, Washington D.C.



## Mark ANGELES (Philippines)

poet, fiction writer, essayist

*Participated courtesy of the U.S. Embassy in Manila*

### Program Activities:

- September 5 Visit, Tri-State Rodeo
- September 21 Tour, Draco Hill Sustainable Farm
- September 26 Reception, UI Center for Asian and Pacific Studies
- September 28 Visit, Kalona Fall Festival
- October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "Freedom's Limits"
- October 14 Presentation, International Literature Today
- October 18 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- October 19 Hike, Effigy Mounds National Park
- November 4 Tour, The Poetry Foundation, Chicago (IL)



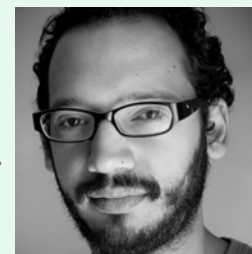
## Rodrigo BLANCO CALDERÓN (Venezuela)

fiction writer

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

### Program Activities:

- September 5 Visit, Tri-State Rodeo
- September 14 Guest, UI English Dept. Reception
- September 15 Reading, Prairie Lights Book Store
- September 19 Reading and Discussion, Upper Iowa University, Fayette, IA
- September 21 Interview, 'On the Map' Series
- October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "Religion and Writing"
- October 14 Presentation, International Literature Today
- October 29 Presentation, Reading and Discussion, UI Spanish MFA program



## Craig CLIFF (New Zealand)

fiction writer, poet

*Participated courtesy of Creative New Zealand*

### Program Activities:

- September 5 Visit, Tri-State Rodeo
- September 14 Guest, UI English Dept. Reception
- September 21 Tour, Draco Hill Sustainable Farm
- September 22 Guest, Secrest Barn Party
- September 27 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- September 28 Visit, Kalona Fall Festival
- October 2 Presentation, Bard Early College, New Orleans
- October 10 Reading and Discussion, Senior College, Johnson County Senior Center
- October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "The Vonnegut Effect"
- October 19 Hike, Effigy Mounds National Park
- October 21 Presentation, International Literature Today
- November 6 Guest, Alice McDermott Reading at Irish Embassy, Washington D.C.



## Tom CROSSHILL (Latvia)

fiction writer

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



### Program Activities:

- September 5 Visit, Tri-State Rodeo
- September 6 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- October 2 Presentation, Bard Early College, New Orleans
- October 8 Presentation, UI Science Fiction Writing Course
- October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "Genre Studies"
- October 17 Reading, US Bank Reception
- October 23 Screening, Cinemathèque Film Series, *Kin Dza Dza*
- October 28 Presentation, International Literature Today

## Martin DYAR (Ireland)

poet, playwright

*Participated courtesy of the Arts Council of Ireland, Culture Ireland, and Dublin UNESCO City of Literature*



### Program Activities:

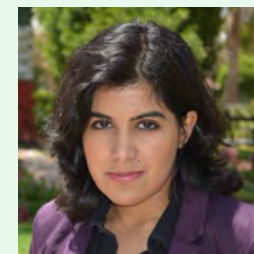
- September 9 Reading, Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities Dinner
- September 14 Guest, UI English Dept. Reception
- September 22 Reading, Prairie Lights Book Store
- September 24 Reading and Discussion, Loras College, Dubuque (IA)
- September 28 Visit, Kalona Fall Festival
- October 11 Reading, UI Irish Studies Conference
- October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "I Wish I Had Written That"
- October 13 Performance, Global Express Theatre Collaboration
- October 14 Reading and Discussion, Iowa State University
- October 17 Reading, US Bank Reception
- October 19 Hike, Effigy Mounds National Park

- November 2 Interview, 'On the Map' Series
- November 4 Presentation, International Literature Today
- November 5 Tour, The Poetry Foundation, Chicago (IL)
- November 6 Reading, with Alice McDermott at the Irish Embassy, Washington D.C.
- November 9 Tour, Poets House, New York (NY)

## Nada FARIS (Kuwait)

fiction writer, poet

*Participated courtesy of Kuwait Ministry of Youth*



### Program Activities:

- September 5 Visit, Tri-State Rodeo
- September 23 Presentation, International Literature Today
- October 10 Reading and Discussion, Senior College, Johnson County Senior Center
- October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "Fiction or Fact?"
- October 27 Reading, Prairie Lights Book Store
- November 4 Tour, The Poetry Foundation, Chicago (IL)
- November 6 Visit, Split This Rock youth poetry group, Washington D.C.
- November 6 Reading, Busboys and Poets, Washington D.C.
- November 9 Tour, Poets House, New York (NY)

## Dmitry GOLYNKO (Russia)

poet

*Participated courtesy of The Paul and Hualing Engle Fund*



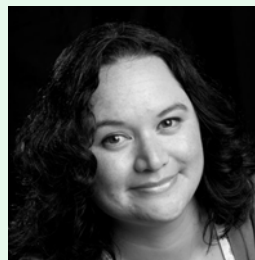
### Program Activities:

- September 1 Reading, Prairie Lights Book Store
- September 5 Visit, Tri-State Rodeo
- September 14 Guest, UI English Dept. Reception
- September 21 Tour, Draco Hill Sustainable Farm
- September 22 Guest, Secrest Barn Party
- September 27 Presentation, Translation Workshop
- October 2 Presentation, Bard Early College, New Orleans

# 2013 ACTIVITIES

October 3 Reading, Press Street, New Orleans (LA)  
 October 9 Screening, Cinemathèque, poetry films  
 October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "At Language's Edge"  
 Oct 15 - 17 Reading and Discussion, Yale University  
 October 19 Hike, Effigy Mounds National Park  
 October 21 Presentation, International Literature Today  
 Oct 27 - 29 Reading and Discussion, UC Berkeley  
 November 4 Tour, The Poetry Foundation, Chicago (IL)  
 December 9 Reading, Poets House, New York (NY)

**Whiti HEREAKA (New Zealand)**  
 playwright, novelist, screenwriter  
*Participated courtesy of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State*



## Program Activities:

September 5 Visit, Tri-State Rodeo  
 September 6 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series  
 September 9 Presentation, Int'l Translation Today  
 September 14 Guest, UI English Dept. Reception  
 September 28 Visit, Kalona Fall Festival  
 October 2 Presentation, Bard Early College  
 October 10 Presentation, Des Moines Central Academy  
 October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "First Novel Experiences"  
 October 13 Performance, Global Express  
 October 19 Hike, Effigy Mounds National Park  
 Oct 27 - 29 Performance, The Portland Stage Company  
 November 1 Discussion, UI Playwriting Dept.  
 November 2 Interview, On the Map Series  
 November 6 Guest, Alice McDermott Reading at Irish Embassy, Washington D.C.

**KIM Kyung Uk (South Korea)**  
 fiction writer  
*Participated courtesy of the Arts Council Korea*



## Program Activities:

September 5 Visit, Tri-State Rodeo

September 13 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series  
 September 14 Guest, UI English Dept. Reception  
 September 21 Tour, Draco Hill Sustainable Farm  
 September 23 Presentation, International Literature Today  
 September 26 Reception, UI Center for Asian and Pacific Studies  
 September 28 Visit, Kalona Fall Festival  
 October 19 Hike, Effigy Mounds National Park  
 October 23 Panel, "World Novel Today"  
 October 25 Presentation, Translation Workshop

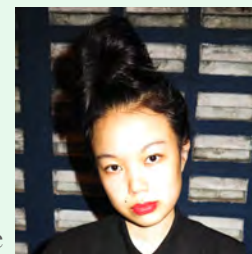
**KIM Seoryung (South Korea)**  
 fiction writer  
*Participated courtesy of the Literature Translation Institute of Korea*



## Program Activities:

September 13 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series  
 September 21 Tour, Draco Hill Sustainable Farm  
 September 26 Reception, UI Center for Asian and Pacific Studies  
 October 2 Presentation, Bard Early College  
 October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "The New Sexualities"  
 October 14 Presentation, International Literature Today  
 November 1 Presentation, Translation Workshop

**Amanda Lee KOE (Singapore)**  
 fiction writer  
*Participated courtesy of the Singapore National Arts Council*



## Program Activities:

September 11 Screening, Cinemathèque Film Series, *12 Storeys* and *Post-Love*  
 September 14 Guest, UI English Dept. Reception  
 September 16 Presentation, International Literature Today  
 September 26 Reception, UI Center for Asian and Pacific Studies



# 2013 ACTIVITIES

- September 26 Panel, Intellectual Freedom Festival: "Is This Censorship?"
- October 2 Presentation, Bard Early College
- October 3 Reading, Press Street, New Orleans (LA)
- October 6 Reading, Prairie Lights Book Store
- October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "The New Sexualities"
- Nov 1 - 3 Presentation, Singapore Writers Festival

## Dénes KRUSOVSKY (Hungary)

poet, translator

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

### Program Activities:

- September 5 Visit, Tri-State Rodeo
- September 21 Tour, Draco Hill Sustainable Farm
- September 28 Visit, Kalona Fall Festival
- October 3 Reading, Press Street, New Orleans (LA)
- October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "A Sense of Place"
- October 14 Presentation, International Literature Today
- October 17 Reading and Discussion, Senior College, Johnson County Senior Center
- October 25 Presentation, Translation Workshop
- November 3 Reading, Prairie Lights Book Store
- November 4 Tour, The Poetry Foundation, Chicago (IL)
- December 9 Reading, Poets House, New York (NY)



## LEE Chi-leung 李智良 (Hong Kong)

fiction writer, essayist

*Participated courtesy of the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation*

### Program Activities:

- September 1 Reception, UI Center for Asian and Pacific Studies



- October 7 Presentation, International Literature Today
- October 11 Presentation, Translation Workshop
- October 25 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series

## Zeyar LYNN (Burma/Myanmar)

poet, translator



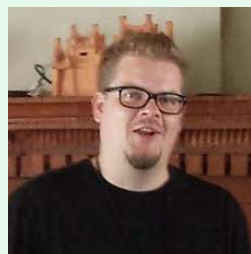
### Program Activities:

- September 20 Interview, World Canvass, Iowa Public Radio
- September 21 Tour, Draco Hill Sustainable Farm
- September 23 Presentation, International Literature Today
- September 26 Reception, UI Center for Asian and Pacific Studies
- September 26 Panel, Intellectual Freedom Festival: "Is This Censorship?"
- October 3 Reading, Lunch Poems Reading Series, UC-Berkeley
- October 5 Reading, Segue/Zinc Bar, New York (NY)
- October 7 Reading, Kelly Writers House, University of Pennsylvania
- October 9 Lecture, Iowa City Foreign Relations Council: "Myanmar and China Since 2011"
- October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "At Language's Edge"
- October 17 Reading and Discussion, Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids (IA)
- October 19 Hike, Effigy Mounds National Park
- October 20 Reading, Prairie Lights Book Store
- October 26 Interview, On the Map Series
- November 4 Tour, The Poetry Foundation, Chicago (IL)
- December 9 Reading, Poets House, New York (NY)

## Teemu MANNINEN (Finland)

poet

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



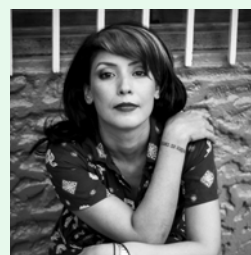
### Program Activities:

- September 14 Guest, UI English Dept. Reception
- September 21 Tour, Draco Hill Sustainable Farm
- September 23 Presentation, International Literature Today
- September 27 Presentation, Translation Workshop
- September 28 Visit, Kalona Fall Festival
- September 29 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "At Language's Edge"
- October 13 Performance, Global Express Theatre Collaboration
- October 14 Reading and Discussion, Iowa State University (IA)
- November 4 Tour, The Poetry Foundation, Chicago (IL)
- December 9 Reading, Poets House, New York (NY)

## Lili MENDOZA (Panama)

fiction writer, poet, translator

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



### Program Activities:

- September 1 Reading, Prairie Lights Book Store
- September 14 Guest, UI English Dept. Reception
- September 21 Tour, Draco Hill Sustainable Farm
- September 23 Presentation, International Literature Today
- September 26 Panel, Intellectual Freedom Festival: "Is This Censorship?"
- September 27 Presentation, Translation Workshop
- September 28 Visit, Kalona Fall Festival
- October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "A Sense of Place"
- October 13 Performance, Global Express

- October 16 Reading and Discussion, Grinnell College
- October 17 Reading and Discussion, Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids (IA)
- October 19 Hike, Effigy Mounds National Park
- October 29 Reading and Discussion, UI Spanish MFA
- November 2 Interview, 'On the Map' Series
- November 4 Tour, The Poetry Foundation, Chicago (IL)

## Shandana MINHAS (Pakistan)

fiction writer

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



### Program Activities:

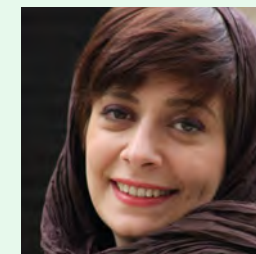
- September 14 Guest, UI English Dept. Reception
- September 23 Presentation, International Literature Today
- September 26 Panel, Intellectual Freedom Festival: "Is This Censorship?"
- September 28 Visit, Kalona Fall Festival
- October 9 Reading and Discussion, Drake University
- October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "Politics and Prose"
- October 19 Hike, Effigy Mounds National Park
- October 30 Screening, Cinemathèque Film Series, *The Four Lions*
- November 3 Reading, Prairie Lights Book Store
- November 6 Guest, Alice McDermott Reading at Irish Embassy, Washington D.C.
- November 7 Lecture, "This is Not That Dawn," American University, Washington D.C.

## Mahsa MOHEBALI (Iran)

fiction writer

### Program Activities:

- September 5 Visit, Tri-State Rodeo
- September 9 Reading, Council for International Visitors to Iowa Cities Dinner



# 2013 ACTIVITIES

- September 21 Tour, Draco Hill Sustainable Farm
- September 22 Guest, Secrest Barn Party
- September 28 Visit, Kalona Fall Festival
- October 9 Reading and Discussion, Drake University
- October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "The New Sexualities"
- October 20 Reading, Prairie Lights Book Store
- October 21 Presentation, International Literature Today
- October 26 Interview, 'On the Map' Series
- November 1 Presentation, UI Class "Writing Center Creative Writing Group"
- November 1 Volunteer, UI Writing Center
- November 6 Guest, Alice McDermott Reading at Irish Embassy, Washington D.C

## Asma NADIA (Indonesia)

**fiction writer, nonfiction writer**

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

### Program Activities:

- September 5 Visit, Tri-State Rodeo
- September 21 Tour, Draco Hill Sustainable Farm
- September 21 Interview, 'On the Map' Series
- September 25 Screening, Cinemathèque Film Series, *My Mother Dreams of the Hajj*
- September 26 Reception, UI Center for Asian and Pacific Studies
- September 27 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- September 28 Visit, Kalona Fall Festival
- October 10 Reading and Discussion, Des Moines Central Academy
- October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "Religion and Writing"
- October 13 Performance, Global Express
- October 14 Reading and Discussion, Iowa State University
- October 19 Hike, Effigy Mounds National Park
- October 24 Reading and Discussion, Senior College,



- Johnson County Senior Center
- October 28 Presentation, International Literature Today
- November 1 Presentation, Translation Workshop

## Corinne N'GUESSAN

(Cote D'Ivoire)

**fiction writer**

*Participated courtesy of the U.S. Embassy in Abidjan*

### Program Activities:

- September 5 Visit, Tri-State Rodeo
- September 14 Guest, UI English Dept. Reception
- September 21 Tour, Draco Hill Sustainable Farm
- September 22 Guest, Secrest Barn Party
- September 25 Reception, African Studies Program
- September 28 Visit, Kalona Fall Festival
- October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "Religion and Writing"
- October 13 Performance, Global Express
- October 17 Reading, US Bank Reception
- October 18 Presentation, Translation Workshop
- October 19 Hike, Effigy Mounds National Park
- October 24 Reading and Discussion, Senior College, Johnson County Senior Center
- October 28 Presentation, International Literature Today
- October 28 French Forum, UI Division of World Languages, Literatures & Cultures
- November 1 Reading, Shambaugh House
- November 2 Interview, 'On the Map' Series
- November 2 Performance, UI Dept. of Dance
- November 4 Tour, The Poetry Foundation, Chicago (IL)



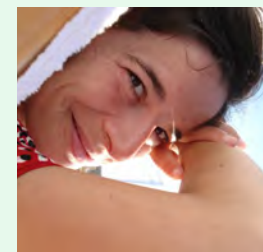
## Patrícia PORTELA (Portugal)

**playwright, fiction writer**

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

### Program Activities:

- September 5 Visit, Tri-State Rodeo





# 2013 ACTIVITIES

September 6	Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
September 9	Presentation, International Literature Today
September 13	Presentation, Translation Workshop
September 18	Screening, Cinemathèque Film Series, <i>Recollections of the Yellow House</i>
September 21	Tour, Draco Hill Sustainable Farm
September 22	Guest, Secrest Barn Party
September 28	Visit, Kalona Fall Festival
October 1	Class Visit and Reading New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (LA)
October 2	Presentation, Bard Early College, New Orleans
October 10	Presentation, UI Sustainability Lecture Series
Oct 11 - 13	Installation, Hortus, downtown Iowa City
October 13	Presentation, Salon on Hortus
October 14	Reading and Discussion, Iowa State University
October 18	Presentation, Translation Workshop
October 19	Hike, Effigy Mounds National Park
October 23	Panel, "World Novel Today"
Oct 27 - 29	Performance, The Portland Stage Company
November 1	Discussion, UI Playwriting Dept.
November 1	Volunteer, UI Writing Center
November 2	Interview, 'On the Map' Series
November 2	Performance, Dance Collaboration with the UI Dept. of Dance
November 4	Tour, The Poetry Foundation, Chicago (IL)
November 6	Guest, Alice McDermott Reading at Irish Embassy, Washington D.C.
Nov 22 - Dec 1	Collaboration, Book Project with UI Center of the Book

## Oscar RANZO (Uganda)

fiction writer

*Participated courtesy of the U.S. Embassy in  
Kampala*

### Program Activities:

September 5	Visit, Tri-State Rodeo
September 8	Reading, Prairie Lights Book Store
September 10	Presentation, UI Course led by



	Ambassador Ronald K. McMullen
September 14	Guest, UI English Dept. Reception
September 16	Volunteer, Iowa Youth Writing Project
September 18	Presentation, UI Course led by Marie Kruger
September 22	Guest, Secrest Barn Party
September 25	Reception, African Studies Program
September 28	Visit, Kalona Fall Festival
October 10	Reading and Discussion, Des Moines Central Academy
October 12	Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "Fiction or Fact"
October 19	Hike, Effigy Mounds National Park
October 21	Presentation, International Literature Today
October 22	Presentation, UI Religious Studies Colloquium
November 1	Performance, Dance Collaboration with the UI Dept. of Dance

## Roland RUGERO (Burundi)

fiction writer

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



### Program Activities:

September 5	Visit, Tri-State Rodeo
September 9	Presentation, International Literature Today
Sept 11 - 17	Presentation, Babel Festival (Switzerland)
September 22	Interview, 'On the Map' Series
September 25	Reception, African Studies Program
October 1	Class Visit, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts
October 1	Reading, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts
October 2	Presentation, Bard Early College, New Orleans
October 12	Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "Politics and Prose"
October 28	French Forum, UI Division of World Languages, Literatures & Cultures
October 30	Screening, Cinemathèque Film Series, shorts from Burundi
November 1	Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series

# 2013 ACTIVITIES

## Sridala SWAMI (India)

poet, fiction writer, children's writer

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

### Program Activities:

- September 5 - 7 Reading, Pittsburgh Jazz/Poetry Concert (PA)
- September 8 Reading, Prairie Lights Bookstore
- September 9 Presentation, International Literature Today
- September 14 Guest, UI English Dept. Reception
- September 22 Interview, 'On the Map' Series
- October 1 Class Visit, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts
- October 1 Reading, New Orleans Center for Creative Arts
- October 2 Presentation, Bard Early College, New Orleans
- October 3 Reading, Press Street, New Orleans (LA)
- October 7 - 9 Reading and Discussion, Oberlin College (OH)
- October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "I Wish I Had Written That"
- October 13 Performance, Global Express
- October 16 Screening, Cinemathèque Film Series, *Jai Bhim Comrade*
- October 17 Reading and Discussion, Kirkwood Community College, Cedar Rapids (IA)
- October 19 Hike, Effigy Mounds National Park
- November 4 Tour, The Poetry Foundation, Chicago (IL)
- November 7 Lecture, "This is Not That Dawn," American University, Washington D.C.
- December 9 Reading, Poets House, New York (NY)



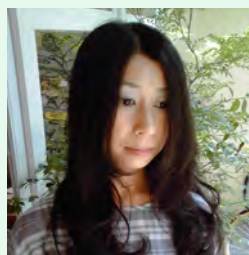
## Yui TANIZAKI (Japan)

fiction writer, translator

*Participated courtesy of the Japan Foundation*

### Program Activities:

- September 5 Visit, Tri-State Rodeo
- September 12 Visit, UI Japanese Translation Course
- September 14 Guest, UI English Dept. Reception



- September 19 Reading and Discussion, Upper Iowa University
- September 22 Reading, Prairie Lights Book Store
- September 22 Guest, Secret Barn Party
- September 26 Reception, UI Center for Asian and Pacific Studies
- October 2 Presentation, Bard Early College, New Orleans
- October 8 Visit, UI Japanese Translation Course
- October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "A Sense of Place"
- October 14 Presentation, International Literature Today
- October 15 Visit, UI Japanese Translation Course
- October 17 Visit, UI Japanese Translation Course
- October 21 Visit, UI Japanese Translation Course
- October 21 Visit, Kennedy High School, Cedar Rapids (IA)
- October 25 Presentation, Translation Workshop
- October 31 Reading, Japanese Language Program
- November 6 Guest, Alice McDermott Reading at Irish Embassy, Washington D.C.

## TONG Wei Ger 童偉格 (Taiwan)

fiction writer, playwright

*Participated courtesy of Taiwan's Ministry of Culture*

### Program Activities:

- September 5 Visit, Tri-State Rodeo
- September 21 Tour, Draco Hill Sustainable Farm
- September 26 Reception, UI Center for Asian and Pacific Studies
- September 28 Visit, Kalona Fall Festival
- October 2 Presentation, Bard Early College, New Orleans
- October 7 Presentation, International Literature Today
- October 9 Reading and Discussion, Drake University (IA)
- October 18 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- October 23 Panel, "World Novel Today"
- November 2 Presentation, UI Chinese Student and Scholars Association

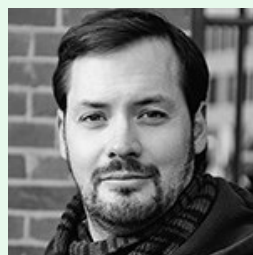


# 2013 ACTIVITIES

## Simon URBAN (Germany)

fiction writer

*Participated courtesy of the Max Kade Foundation*



### Program Activities:

- September 5 Visit, Tri-State Rodeo
- September 16 Presentation, International Literature Today
- September 20 Presentation, Translation Workshop
- September 21 Tour, Draco Hill Sustainable Farm
- September 28 Visit, Kalona Fall Festival
- October 2 Presentation, Bard Early College, New Orleans
- October 6 Reading, Prairie Lights Book Store
- October 10 Reading and Discussion, Des Moines Central Academy
- October 12 Panel, Iowa City Book Festival: "Genre Studies"
- October 19 Hike, Effigy Mounds National Park
- October 31 Reading and Discussion, Grinnell College (IA)
- November 6 Guest, Alice McDermott Reading at Irish Embassy, Washington D.C.

## Erez VOLK (Israel)

translator

*Participated courtesy of the United States-Israel Education Foundation*



### Program Activities:

- September 14 Guest, UI English Dept. Reception
- September 21 Tour, Draco Hill Sustainable Farm
- September 26 Reception, UI African Studies Program
- September 28 Visit, Kalona Fall Festival
- October 2 Presentation, Bard Early College, New Orleans
- October 7 Presentation, International Literature Today
- Oct 17 - 19 Visit, ALTA Conference, Indianapolis (IN)
- October 19 Hike, Effigy Mounds National Park
- October 20 Presentation, Hillel Jewish Student Center
- October 23 Panel, "World Novel Today"
- October 25 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- November 1 Presentation, Translation Workshop

## WANG Jiaxin

王家新 (China)

poet, essayist, translator, scholar

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



### Program Activities:

- Sept 5 - 8 Reading, Pittsburgh Jazz/Poetry Concert (PA)
- September 16 Presentation, International Literature Today
- Sept 19 - 21 Reading and Discussion, University of Oklahoma, Norman (OK)
- September 26 Reception, UI Center for Asian and Pacific Studies
- September 28 Reading, 18th Annual Watershed Environmental Poetry Festival, Berkeley (CA)
- October 11 Guest, Translation Workshop
- October 11 Reading, Shambaugh House Reading Series
- October 19 Reading and Discussion, University of St. Louis
- October 21 Reading, Fashion Institute of Technology, SUNY (NY)
- Oct 24 - 29 Award Reception, 4th Changwon KC Int'l Literary Prize for Poetry (South Korea)
- November 2 Presentation, UI Chinese Students and Scholars Association
- November 2 Performance, Dance Collaboration with the UI Dept. of Dance
- December 9 Reading, Poets House, New York (NY)

## LEARN MORE:

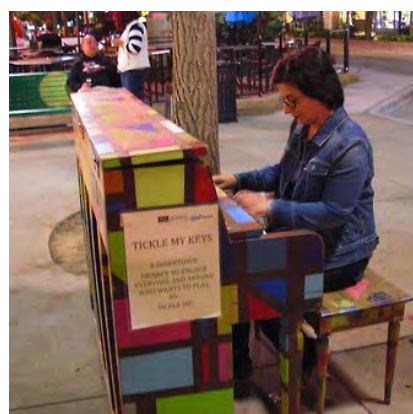
[iwp.uiowa.edu/residency](http://iwp.uiowa.edu/residency)





In front of Old Capital Building on day of arrival in Iowa City (at center); At the MFA mixer (center, at bottom); clockwise from lower left: Roland Rugero speaks to University of Iowa International Literature Today students; Ida Beam Distinguished Visiting Professor and IWP alumnus Kwame Dawes speaks to writers; A bucolic visit to Erem Acreage; A visit to Mary Swander's class at Iowa State University; A visit to the Amana Colonies; The "Is This Censorship?" panel at the Iowa City Public Library; Opening Party introductions.





Clockwise from center left: Oscar Ranzo participates in IWP/UI Dance Collaboration; Martin Dyar reads with Alice McDermott at the Irish Embassy, Yui Tanizaki during mid-residency travel to New Orleans; Poet Brenda Hillman speaks with Zeyar Lunn in San Francisco; Former Poet Laureate Robert Hass introduces Lynn before his reading; Lili Mendoza (center) acts in Global Express; Under the Golden Gate Bridge; Putting a public piano to use; Perusing the collection at Poets House.





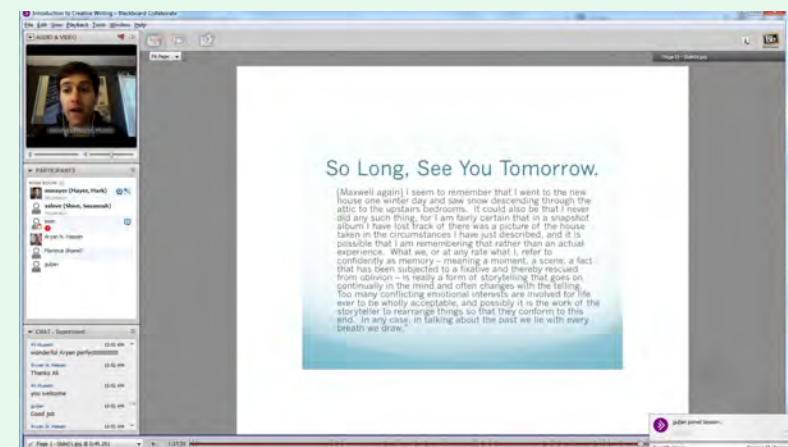
The Distance Learning (DL) Program continued to expand and refine its offerings in 2013, creating learning opportunities to offer the study and practice of creative writing to underserved communities, bring aspiring and professional writers together throughout the world for the experience of cultural exchange, and foster new international communities of writers.

Programming is provided through live online classrooms, live and recorded videos, synchronous and asynchronous online discussions, and social media. The DL Program worked continually in 2013 to improve on the design and delivery of its online courses in order to create accessible, educational, and exciting experiences for participating writers, students, and educators.

Outreach courses, developed in collaboration with international institutions, brought the study of creative writing and literature to students in Somalia, Russia, and Iraq. In Spring 2013, the DL Program created a dual study of literature and creative writing in partnership with Hargeisa University in Somalia. The course focused on contemporary work published in American journals and included such topics as immigration narratives and cross-cultural exploration. Also in Spring 2013, poet Margaret Ross taught “Introduction to Creative Writing” to students at the SAAS Marina in St. Petersburg, Russia. In Fall

2013 the DL program and the SAAS Marina built upon the success of the spring course to create “Angry Young Men: Creative Approaches to *Hamlet*, *Catcher in the Rye*, and the First-Person Narrative,” a longer, more advanced study of literature and creative writing. In Fall 2013, the DL Program built upon the success of the Fall 2012 Creative Writing Series, offered to students and scholars in Baghdad, Iraq, to create an introductory poetry and fiction writing course for students and professors at the University of Kirkuk. This course, “Longing, We Say: Distance in the Literary Imagination,” centered on the theme of literal and imagined distance in literature.

The DL Program expanded the reach of open-application courses to offer four such courses in 2013: a Virtual Poetry Seminar, a Poetry Master Class, an Advanced Poetry Seminar, and an Advanced Fiction Seminar. In total, the open-application courses drew over 700 applications worldwide and served 60 participants from 30 countries. These courses, which spanned Spring, Summer, and Fall 2013, were created to serve the goals of emerging adult writers throughout the world by facilitating advanced examination of craft in literature and in the participants’ own work. Bringing writers together online for discussion and community-building, the open-application courses offer highly popular opportunities to create new lasting connections between the participants.



Fiction writer Mark Mayer used Blackboard Collaborate software to teach DL course “Longing, We Say: Distance in the Literary Imagination” to students in Kirkuk, Iraq.





Students in St. Petersburg, Russia display certificates for “Angry Young Men: Creative Approaches to *Hamlet*, *Catcher in the Rye*, and the First-Person.”

Course topics included combined study of literature and creative writing, and comprehensive introductory and advanced study of fiction and poetry. Each course facilitated collective critical literary analysis, encouraged individual writers to develop and refine their creative voices, and included group discussion of participants’ work. Taught within secure virtual classrooms hosted by the University of Iowa (UI), students contributed their thoughts through live video and chat, while instructors led discussion of readings and student work through video, chat, and the classrooms’ virtual whiteboards. Students in each course also had the opportunity to access readings, post questions, and build community through the course website.

An online reading group brought UI LGBT students together with LGBT students at Glasgow University in Scotland. A collaborative online exchange gave UI undergraduate writers the opportunity to mentor writing students at the Dar al-Tifl high school in East Jerusalem. Virtual readings events, which included live question-and-answer sessions, offered opportunities for UI students to connect with Argentinian, Colombian, and Ghanaian authors.

The DL Program continued to collaborate with the IWP’s Between the Lines program to create distance

learning events that brought participating students together with international writers through live online guest lectures and question-and-answer sessions.

The DL Program also created programming for the IWP’s first MOOCs, preparing “Every Atom: Walt Whitman’s Song of Myself” to open in February 2014 and “How Writers Write: Talks on Craft and Commitment” to open in June 2014. MOOC design has utilized the Virtual Writing University’s Open Courses website, with live broadcast components to be provided through Ustream. Creation of the MOOCs’ pedagogical structures has centered on the necessity of creating, in the words of National Public Radio, “a human connection beyond the streamed lecture.” In keeping with the goals of all DL programming—to promote educational access, cultural exchange, and community—the IWP’s first MOOCs are designed to provide the interactive teaching structures and community-based critical thinking necessary for successful teaching of literature and creative writing to international communities.

[iwp.uiowa.edu/iwp-courses/distance-learning-courses](http://iwp.uiowa.edu/iwp-courses/distance-learning-courses)

## COURSES:

### Spring 2013:

- Virtual Poetry Seminar
- Introduction to Creative Writing & Contemporary American Literature (Hargeisa, Somalia)
- Introduction to Creative Writing (St. Petersburg, Russia)

### Summer 2013:

- Advanced Poetry Seminar
- Poetry Master Class

### Fall 2013:

- Advanced Fiction Seminar
- Angry Young Men: Creative Approaches to *Hamlet*, *Catcher in the Rye*, and the First-Person Narrative (St. Petersburg, Russia)
- Longing, We Say: Distance in the Literary Imagination (Kirkuk, Iraq)

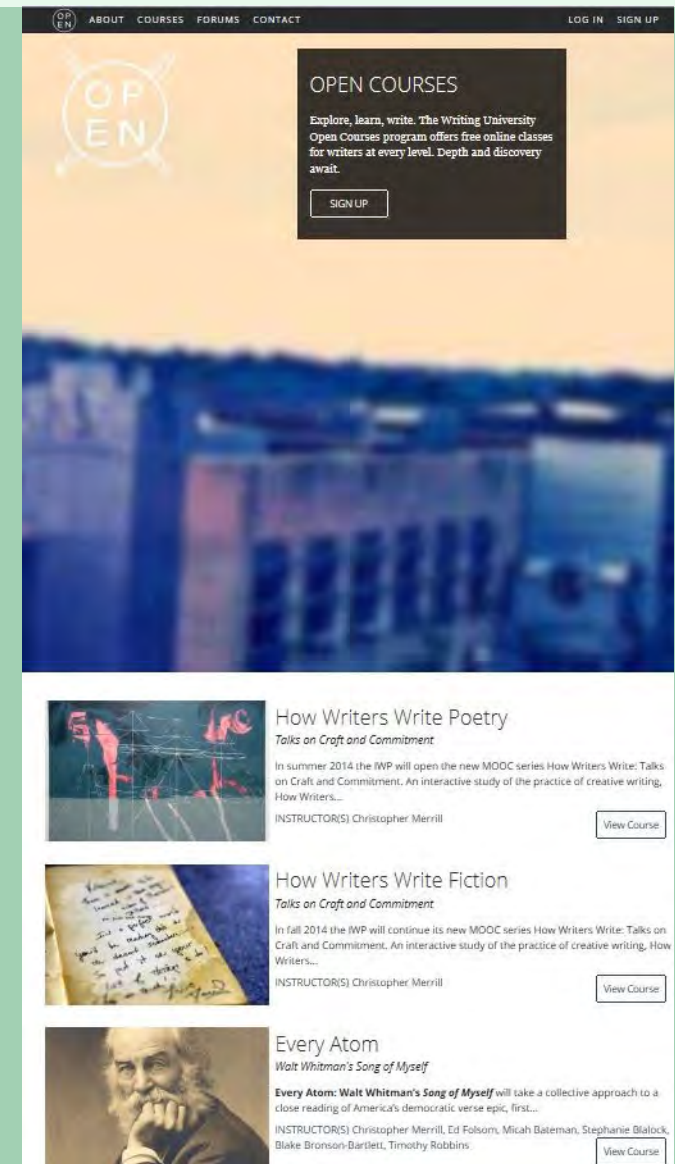


The Virtual Writing University is a creative portal for the University of Iowa's writing community. Working closely with the City of Iowa City, the UNESCO City of Literature, and the numerous creative writing programs at the University of Iowa, the Writing University website is updated daily to represent 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.

This year the Writing University took major steps forward in its mission and development. The most influential and exciting of these endeavors was the preparation to launch of the Writing University Open Courses website, the first website at the University of Iowa to house and deliver a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course). Since there were no guidelines or structures in place to create such a site, the Writing University became singularly responsible for managing the project, determining the theme, creating the visual design, and implementing the Drupal CMS backend structuring and HTML/CSS templating for the website from start to finish. During this development, we created visual concepts and final designs for the project; we managed the entire user database, security and registration/enrollment, and ensured technical feasibility and correct design implementation.

In addition to the new Open Courses website, the Writing University has been in charge of overseeing and managing high-profile writing projects, including the City of Literature Citizen Scholarship project, for which members of the community gathered during the summer to research three authors living in Iowa City. After researching and interviewing these authors, the community members produced biographies, mapped GPS locations, and created media collections related to the authors. For this project, we provided final authority prior to press, reviewing and editing the content before publishing it to the live native app and website app.



**LEARN MORE:**  
[www.writinguniversity.org](http://www.writinguniversity.org)



# BOOK WINGS

## Making Literature Fly

In March 2013, three-year collaborative bilingual theatre project *Book Wings* expanded to include both Russia and China, bringing together the worlds of literature, theatrical performance, and new media to produce unified dramatic performances in real time across borders, time zones, and languages.

The success of this groundbreaking theatre initiative, launched in 2012 in collaboration with the Moscow Art Theatre, inspired a similar collaboration (“Book Wing China”) with the Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre in parallel with the second edition of “Book Wings Russia.” As a result, in 2013, Book Wings commissioned American, Chinese, and Russian playwrights to create short plays on a theme (*Contact* for Book Wings Russia, *Migration* for Book Wings China). The commissioned plays were then translated, with commissioned playwrights working to refine the translations of their counterparts’ work. Nine months of planning, problem-solving and collaboration with the two partner theatres as well as the University of Iowa Department of Theatre Arts, Information Technology Services, University of Iowa Television, and the Writing University, led to two bi-lateral, bi-lingual co-productions integrating artistic and production teams thousands of miles apart. Audiences and viewing parties around the world tuned in to watch the performance via live Internet stream and had a chance to engage via a live embedded Twitter feed.

Book Wings provides a blueprint for future cultural exchange through artistic collaboration. In 2014, the program will feature prose (and expand to include both Russia and Iraq).



### Book Wings Russia Playwrights:

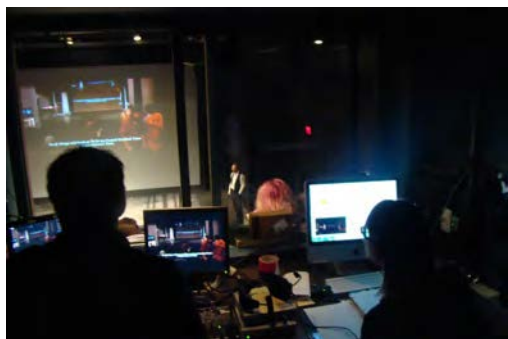
**Sherry Kramer • Carlos Murillo •  
Victoria Stewart (U.S.)  
Marina Krapivina • Maksym Kurochkin •  
Nataliya Moshina (Russia)**



### Book Wings China Playwrights:

**Naomi Iizuka • Dan O'Brien • Chay Yew (U.S.)  
Wang Haoran • Qian Jue • Xu Yaqu (China)**





Clockwise from lower left: The University of Iowa control booth; the Iowa audience face to face with the Chinese audience (on screen); Moscow Art Theatre host (on screen) plays charades with the Iowa audience before the performance; Scene from *Kandahar to Canada* by Dan O'Brien; Chay Yew's *And Two, If by Sea, I Am an Eagle Hen* by Xu Yaquin; *Planet X* by Victoria Stewart; A short behind-the-scenes video on the Book Wings project (click to watch); *Subway* by Qian Jue (at center).



## Arabic World

2013 was a milestone year for Between the Lines (BTL). Over the past six summers the Arabic session has doubled in reach, with twelve students from ten countries and territories in the Middle East and North Africa. Add twelve U.S. students from seven states, plus poet John Murillo and satirist Ghada Abdel Aal as instructors, and you have BTL's most diverse and busiest program to date.

Mornings were spent discussing world literature, while afternoons were devoted to English or Arabic creative writing workshops. The participants also dove into writing outside the classroom. Jennifer Fawcett, Associate Director of Working Group Theatre, led a playwriting workshop that culminated in a series of one act performances. At the Seldom Seen Arts Festival the students cheered on slam poet and BTL participant Zora Hurst. Another night found the group discussing literary language at a translation seminar. The participants' eagerness to share their writing with each other led to an extra writing workshop on the weekend, and culminated in a student reading at The Haunted Bookshop and a bilingual anthology of their work.

Not every moment was spent writing or reading – participants also explored Arab and U.S. worldviews through cultural exchange activities. At “BTL Cinemathèque”, a mini film fest where students show iconic movies from their respective cultures, the group watched the Moroccan film *Ali Zoua: Prince of the Streets* and the American film

*The Breakfast Club*. After a session of learning basic words and phrases at the student-led “Arabic 101”, the group sat down and asked questions about aspects of each other's cultures that they didn't understand. Some of the questions were lighthearted (“Why do Americans wear shorts?”) while some went deeper (“Why do some Muslim women wear headscarves, but others do not?”). An online Skype seminar about politics and prose with IWP alumnus Hind Shoufani added depth to the conversations. When not in the classroom, the students also visited a local Fourth of July celebration, picnicked in the park, and trekked underground through Maquoketa Caves State Park. As one student from Kuwait wrote, “To be honest, [BTL was] one of the best things that ever happened to me.”

### International Participants:

**Intemaa AbuHelou • Palestinian Territories**  
**Ahmed Ali • Bahrain**  
**Tamim Al-Kadasi • Yemen**  
**Shahd Al-Kal • Saudi Arabia**  
**Yaqeen Alkhanaizi • Bahrain**  
**Yusra Arafah • Jordan**  
**Sirine Afraoui • Tunisia**  
**Yasmeen Atme • Israel**  
**Salma Benomara • Morocco**  
**Akram Elnagdy • Egypt**  
**Tala El-Roz • Kuwait**  
**Ilyas Samig • Morocco**

### U.S. Participants:

**Christopher Camacho • Illinois**  
**Alexander Choi • Iowa**  
**Sarah ‘Gracie’ Cobb • Iowa**  
**Sarah Goldman • Kansas**  
**Zora Hurst • Iowa**  
**Ni'Shele Jackson • Illinois**  
**Lillian Kairis • Delaware**  
**Noah Kim • California**  
**Destiny Morrison • Missouri**  
**Caitlin Plathe • Iowa**  
**Margaret Sullivan • Pennsylvania**  
**Sadie Walton • Iowa**

### Chaperones:

**Dari Boyabis • Kuwait**  
**Ruba Hattar • Jordan**

### Instructors:

**Ghada Abdel Aal • Egypt**  
**John Murillo • New York**





Clockwise from upper left hand corner: BTL participants were given an Ipad to record their daily activities from a teen perspective. Each day a pair of students would document BTL's happenings in picture and prose (featuring Yusra from Jordan and Caitlin from Iowa); Participants Salma from Morocco and Maggie from Pennsylvania get to know each other on the first night of BTL; Students doing warm up activities at the dramaturgy workshop; Students perform at the playwriting workshop; BTL Arabic World 2013 participants with instructors Ghada Abdel Aal and John Murillo at the IWP.



## Russia



Chicago. Iowa City. Washington, D.C. BTL Russia's second year moved between cities, languages and literatures. With activities ranging from a literary scavenger hunt to a rodeo, this program grew both in size and scope. BTL Russia demonstrated cultural exchange at its best; as Mikhail from Smolensk remarked, "Here we are . . . like there have never been any disputes, like we've never been enemies."

BTL Russia began with a visit to The Poetry Foundation and an architectural history tour by river boat in Chicago. Once in Iowa, the ten Russian and ten American students united to take world literature classes and hone their craft in creative writing workshops with poet Kiki Petrosino and novelist Alan Cherchesov. Besides fiction and poetry, they tried their hands at creative nonfiction with author Lucas Mann, and then became playwrights for the night with dramaturg Kim Euell. After classes, the students arranged multiple readings around town to hear each other's work and participated in a "bookstore crawl" to visit the 11 bookstores in Iowa City, including attending a reading by their instructors at Prairie Lights Books. Skype sessions with poet Dmitri Golynko and novelist Chandrabhas Choudhury, both IWP alumni added to the already lively writing exchange happening in the group.

When not immersed in literature, the students shared each other's cultures and discovered Iowa. At the student-led "Russian 101" the Americans learned the song 'Kalinka' and danced the

'Rucheyok'; a day later, the Russians watch bullriding at the Washington County fair and rodeo. A trip to a local organic farm and a prairie restoration site included Russo-American food and an ancient Slavic game called Khorovod. The weekend found the group hiking through Wildcat Den State Park, and then writing ekphrastic poems based on artwork in the Figge Art Museum. Then it was goodbye, Iowa, hello D.C.. The Russian students finished their trip with a slam workshop with social justice group Split This Rock, attended a poetry performance at the Kennedy Center, toured D.C.'s many museums and visited one last bookstore, local landmark Kramer Books. It was a trip to remember.

### Russian Participants:

Zoya Antysheva • Moscow  
Inna Dmitrieva • Petrozavodsk  
Evgenia Drobotun • Berdsk  
(Siberia)  
Ekaterina Filonova • Dzerzhinsk  
Alexandra Khrisanova • Moscow  
Dmitry Kravchenko • Krasnodar  
Victoria Larkina • Tivdia  
Daria Smirnova • Vologda  
Alina Vazhenina • Moscow  
Mikhail Zakharov • Smolensk

### U.S. Participants:

Miranda Anthony • Ohio  
Elizabeth Beckman • Kentucky  
Max Granfield • Iowa  
Isabella Jibillian • Connecticut  
Selina Liu • New York  
Olivia Martin • California  
Jonathan Scolare • Wisconsin  
Alec Steckhan • Illinois  
Elizabeth Stillinghagan • Maryland  
Heidi Stofer • Iowa

### Chaperone:

Anastasia Khodakova • Tula,  
Russia

### Instructors:

Novelist Alan Cherchesov • Plovdiv,  
Bulgaria  
Poet Kiki Petrosino • Kentucky





Clockwise from upper left hand corner: Discussing literature at lunch; Playing a traditional Russian game; BTL Russia group after one of their many student readings; Learning a traditional Russian dance at Russian 101; Roasting marshmallows at ZJ farm; At Millennial Park in Chicago.



# OVERSEAS READING TOURS



For the past seven years, the International Writing Program has brought over fifty American writers out to the world by fostering face-to-face literary exchanges in twenty nine countries. 2013 was one of our busiest years with five tours spanning seven countries. Each tour focused on introducing American writers to the literary and cultural landscapes of the host country while creating opportunities for them to share the rich literary traditions and creative writing pedagogy of the United States with students, professors, local writers and artists. Highlights of the tours included: a historic trip to Burma where the American delegation had a chance to meet with numerous IWP alumni on their own soil; a tour with current US Poet Laureate Natasha Trethewey to Abu Dhabi and Dubai; a trip to Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan with visually impaired writer Stephen Kuusisto where his insight into the disabilities movement enriched conversations and broadened the audience to underrepresented populations; meetings in Sudan with university educators who are teaching American Literature and eager to share reading lists; participation in a live radio call-in show in South Sudan answering calls from all over the country; and lastly a tour to Iraq where poets Tom Sleight and Christopher Merrill taught students from Baghdad to Erbil.

## January 2013: BURMA

Robert Hass • Poetry, Essay, Translation  
Brenda Hillman • Poetry  
ZZ Packer • Fiction  
Christopher Merrill • Poetry, Non-Fiction

## April 2013: UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Natasha Trethewey • Poetry  
Christopher Merrill • Poetry, Non-Fiction

## May 2013: UZBEKISTAN and TURKMENISTAN

Chinelo Okparanta • Fiction  
Stephen Kuusisto • Poetry, Memoir  
Ann Hood • Fiction  
Christopher Merrill • Poetry, Non-Fiction

## November/December 2013: SUDAN and SOUTH SUDAN

Adrie Kusserow • Poetry  
Catherine Filloux • Playwriting  
Tom Langdon • Photography  
Christopher Merrill • Poetry, Non-Fiction

## December 2013: IRAQ

Tom Sleight • Poetry  
Christopher Merrill • Poetry, Non-Fiction

[iwp.uiowa.edu/programs/reading-abroad](http://iwp.uiowa.edu/programs/reading-abroad)





Clockwise from upper left: Adrie Kusserow looks over writing during a one-on-one workshop session in South Sudan; the auditorium at Yangon University in Burma; Chinelo Okparanta explains a writing exercise to students at Angren Pedagogical University in Uzbekistan; reading stories with children at the CCOC orphanage in South Sudan; Ann Hood leads a discussion with students at International Turkmen Turkish University in Turkmenistan; IWP reading tour participants with writing workshop students on the steps of a school in Angren, Uzbekistan.



# THE SAME GATE



**“Inside the Great Mystery that is,  
we don’t really own anything.  
What is this competition we feel then,  
before we go, one at a time, through the same gate?”**

**—Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi**

May 3rd - May 8th, 2013 seventeen poets and writers from the U.S., Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey, and Iran arrived in Konya, in central Turkey, to participate in *The Same Gate* conference, exploring the life and work of celebrated 13th century poet Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi, a central poet in Afghan, Arabic, Persian, Urdu, and Turkish literature, and a bestselling poet in America. The conference included discussions, collaborative writing sessions, and visits to museums, shrines, and cultural sites and culminated in a collaborative book of ghazals (a poetic form employed by Rumi), prose reflections, and translations composed by participants as a homage to the spirit of international exchange. Participants met with Esin

Celebi Bayru, Rumi’s great granddaughter (21 generations removed), visited the Rumi Shrine and the shrine of his mentor, Shams e Tabris in Konya, and traveled to the southern town of Karaman to explore a village where Rumi once lived with his family. *The Same Gate* sought to foster greater understanding between Iranian and American poets in particular, building upon the memorandum of understanding signed by the presidents of the University of Iowa and the University of Tehran to increase collaboration between the two institutions. Beirut-based documentary filmmaker Nigol Bezjian recorded the encounter. With Rumi’s poetry as common ground, the project brought poets together to think and talk about poetry and to produce innovative new collaborative work nearly 800 years after Rumi composed the ghazal that gave *The Same Gate* its name.



**Watch *The Same Gate* film at:**

**[http://iwp.uiowa.edu/programs/  
international-conferences/the-same-gate](http://iwp.uiowa.edu/programs/international-conferences/the-same-gate)**





Clockwise from upper left: *The Same Gate* writers assemble for discussions; Iranian-born Los Angeles-based Sholeh Wolpé takes pictures just outside of the Rumi Shrine in Konya, Turkey; Syrian participant Golan Haji taking a few notes; The group with the Rumi Shrine in the background; Somaia Ramish (Afghanistan) reading Rumi; Taking advantage of some quiet time to write; A view of the Rumi Shrine and Museum complex in Konya at dusk.





### FALL AND RISE, AMERICAN STYLE

Eight International Writers Between Gettysburg and the Gulf  
EDITED BY NATAŠA ĐUROVIČOVÁ WITH HUGH FERRER



*The Same Gate: A Collection of Writings in the Spirit of Rumi* is a collection of poems, essays, and scholarly pieces centered around 13<sup>th</sup> century Sufi mystic (and best-selling poet) Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi, and more broadly the ghazal form Rumi's poetry has made known the world over. This unique overlap was the fulcrum of a 2013 conference in Konya (Turkey), where seventeen writers from Afghanistan, Iran, Mexico, Pakistan, Sweden, Syria, Turkey and the United States shared their vastly different practices of writing and spirituality.

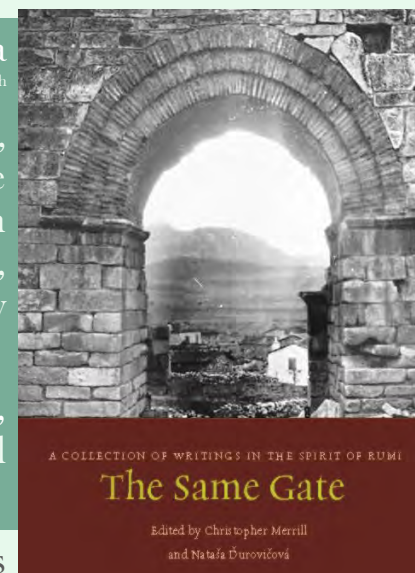
You can see their faces and overhear their voices in the eponymous, nearly hour-long documentary made by the Beirut-based filmmaker Nigol Bezjian, available on the IWP site.

The 2013 residency is captured in sixteen video interviews, this year's installment of our ongoing 'On the Map' interview series.

Finally, we are now in our second year of expanding WhitmanWeb, the multilingual multimedia gallery where Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself" can now be read in fifteen languages, heard in three, and sampled 'comparatively' in plural translations.

Two new volumes are appearing in IWP's 91st Meridian Books series, homed in the catalogue of the lively independent Autumn Hill Books.

*Fall and Rise, American Style: Eight International Writers between Gettysburg and the Gulf* gathers essays written in the wake of a tour a group of IWP alumni took at the behest of the U.S. Department of State, to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War. The invitation was to study and interpret a series of national crises, ranging from the wounds of the Civil War through the natural disasters of hurricane Katrina and the Deepwater Horizon spill. Informed by their own—often quite raw—historical experiences in places such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burma and Cambodia, the writers meditate on a range of America's physical and mental landscapes, finding ways to compare, cleave and connect.



A COLLECTION OF WRITINGS IN THE SPIRIT OF RUMI

### The Same Gate

Edited by Christopher Merrill  
and Nataša Đurovičová





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SAAS Marina, St. Petersburg (Russia)  
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Senior College, Iowa City (IA)  
Singapore Writers Festival (Singapore)  
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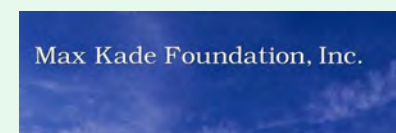
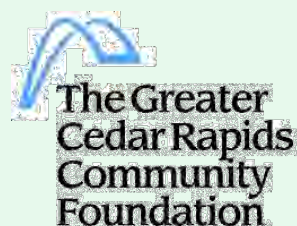
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On October 8, 2013, the literary community in Iowa City gathered to celebrate the life and work of Irish Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney. The following is excerpted from the tribute offered by 2013 IWP Fall Resident Martin Dyar.

In the great cultural structure, in the great obelisk that is the work, the power, the legacy of Seamus Heaney, there are numerous panels, numerous ways that he can be known, and, in these early days since his sad and premature passing, these represent the numerous ways that he is likely to be celebrated and remembered around the world.

Across his thirteen collections of poems, the first of which, *Death of a Naturalist*, appeared in 1966, when he was 26 years of age, we meet: Heaney the nature poet; Heaney the mystical and nerdy farmer; Heaney the transcendentalist; Heaney the pagan disciple, and Heaney the renovator of Christianity; Heaney the bio-ethical prosodist; Heaney the romantic; Heaney the ecologist; Heaney the elegist, the voicer of public mourning; Heaney the chronicler of bloodshed; Heaney the classicist; Epic Heaney; Heaney the translator; Heaney the scholar; Heaney the metaphysical graffiti artist; Heaney, equal interrogator of finitude and infinity; Heaney the poet saying playfully and repeatedly, over the years, with the poet John Donne: 'Death, thou shalt die.'

Some of these aspects of Seamus Heaney will be accessible to us tonight through the special voices of the readers that are gathered here to pay tribute by reciting their favourite Heaney poems. Each reader of course will have their own sense of the poems, their own sense of Heaney, and no doubt we will be treated to some special memories and impressions.

It is worth saying that the holding of a commemorative occasion in Iowa City is particularly fitting. A City of Literature, we might expect, would have the critical mass of readers who would feel the loss, and also the infrastructure, as well as a number of dedicated and experienced individuals to go about setting up and promoting such an event.

But it is not just the all-round, lovely bookishness and readerliness and creativity of Iowa City that is resonating this evening. Just as much, it is Heaney's own mark on the city, his own love for Iowa City, that resonates. Heaney visited many times, and in his own words, words he used when he accepted the Truman Capote Award for literary criticism here in 2003, he considered Iowa City 'a nexus of excellence and nexus of friendship.' Tonight perhaps the nexus of Iowa echoes, in loss and celebration, that high regard.

**LISTEN:** [www.writinguniversity.org/archive-reference/seamus-heaney-memorial-reading](http://www.writinguniversity.org/archive-reference/seamus-heaney-memorial-reading)

# SEAMUS HEANEY

## 1939-2013





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