

Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing

ANNUAL REPORT

2018-2019

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The Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing takes seriously its mission to offer students at the University of Iowa the unique opportunity to enhance their academic, creative, and professional communication skills by focusing on the written word.

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INTRODUCTION

The Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing had an impressive 2018-2019. From continued interest in our on-campus and online writing certificate programs, to the expansion of our many outreach and non-credit endeavors, the last twelve months have proved once again that our curriculum, staff, and faculty are an integral part of the University of Iowa's unmatched status as *The Writing University*.

As our numbers increase—and as we add faculty, staff, and courses to meet demand—it is important to take stock of all that we have accomplished this year and recognize the individuals (students, participants, educators, and colleagues) that have made it all possible. That is the goal of this report, and we hope you are as inspired by the pages that follow as we are.

The Magid Center is firmly placed as a cornerstone of the writing experience here at the University of Iowa, and we look forward to continuing our hard work for many years to come.

My very best,



Daniel Khalastchi
Director
Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing
Division of Interdisciplinary Programs
The University of Iowa

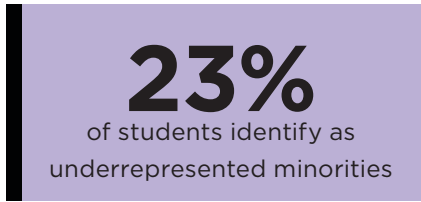
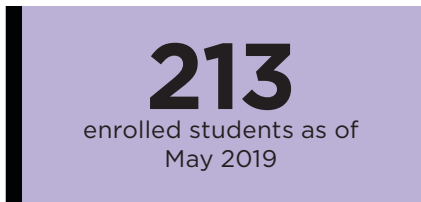


CERTIFICATE IN WRITING

The Certificate in Writing is an academic credential that can be tied to any major (or taken on its own) at the University of Iowa. Available on-campus and online, the Certificate in Writing is housed in The Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing and allows students from all academic backgrounds to pursue a concentration in writing that is related to their scholastic, professional, and/or creative goals. To complete the credential, students must take eight courses related to writing (an introductory course, three core courses, three electives, and one capstone project) and amass between 21-23 semester hours in their work.



HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF MAJORS REPRESENTED





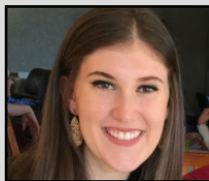
STUDENT SUCCESSES



Delany Breitbach (*Writing Certificate, Literary Publishing Track 2019*) was accepted to Denver University's prestigious Publishing Institute this past summer. Delany currently teaches yoga and is a freelance designer and editor with the hopes of breaking into the production-oriented side of literary publishing soon.



Morgan Jones (*Writing Certificate, Literary Publishing Track 2018*) moved to New York upon graduation to work as an intern at Bloomsbury Publishing. She was later hired as Editorial Assistant in the adult division and now works with various fiction and nonfiction authors. She is loving her job and is looking forward to making her first acquisition.



Sophia Vogeler (*Biochemistry, Writing Certificate 2019*) used her writing capstone project to work on her personal statement for law school, and she was accepted to the University of Minnesota Law School with full funding for her legal education.

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

In addition to academic opportunities, the Magid Center maintained a unique ability to provide students with real-world, experiential learning in 2018-19 by once again overseeing the publications of *Ink Lit Mag*, *Earthwords*, *Fools Magazine*, The Translate Iowa Project's *Boundless* magazine, and the Iowa Chapbook Prize.

14

UI student publications
produced

850+

pages of student work
published

100+ UI
students in
editorial/
staff
positions



IOWA YOUNG WRITERS' STUDIO

The Iowa Young Writers' Studio is a creative writing program for high school students at The University of Iowa, housed in The Magid Center for Undergraduate Writing. The Iowa Young Writers' Studio offers a summer residential program as well as online classes. The Studio was formed in 1999 to give promising high school-age creative writers the opportunity to spend two weeks studying writing at The University of Iowa, in the thriving literary community of Iowa City, with teachers and counselors from the renowned Iowa Writers' Workshop. The Studio receives applications from all over the United States and abroad. Students at The Studio share their writing with teachers and peers, receive constructive critique, participate in writing exercises and activities, and attend readings and literary events. The Studio operates under the philosophy that the study of creative writing is essential not only to students who want to pursue writing as a career but to any student hoping to function effectively in a writing-centric world, and to any adolescent who seeks to understand his or her identity and experience.

796

STUDENT
APPLICATIONS FOR
SUMMER RESIDENTIAL
PROGRAM

145

STUDENTS ACCEPTED
FOR SUMMER
RESIDENTIAL
PROGRAM

133

STUDENTS IN NEW
ONLINE, FOR-CREDIT
WRITING COURSES

STUDENT AND FACULTY SUCCESSES

This past year several former IYWS teachers and counselors have published first novels. These include Maria Kuznetsova's *Oksana, Behave!*, Evan James's *Cheer Up, Mr. Widdicombe*, De'Shawn Winslow's *In West Mills*, and Claire Lombardo's *The Most Fun We Ever Had*. All four novels received enthusiastic reviews in *The New York Times*. *The Most Fun We Ever Had* debuted at #13 on *The New York Times* Bestseller List.

Thirii Myo Kyaw Myint's (IYWS 2006) family history project *Zat Lun* won the 2018 Graywolf Press Nonfiction Prize and is forthcoming in early 2021. She is the author of the lyric novel *The End of Peril, the End of Emmity, the End of Strife, a Haven* (Noemi Press, 2018). Thirii holds a B.A. in Literary Arts from Brown University and an M.F.A. in Prose from the University of Notre Dame. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Creative Writing at the University of Denver, the associate editor of *The Denver Quarterly*, and an instructor at Lighthouse Writer's Workshop.

Devanshi Khetarpal (IYWS 2015) has just published her first collection of poetry, *Small Talk* (Writers' Workshop Press, Kolkata, India). *Small Talk* is a hardcover limited edition book. Every copy is gold-stitched, hand-embossed, hand-pasted, and hand-bound with handloom saree cloth woven and designed in India, to provide visual beauty and the intimate texture of a book-feel. Devanshi is a junior at New York University majoring in Comparative Literature with a minor in Creative Writing.

IOWA SUMMER WRITING FESTIVAL

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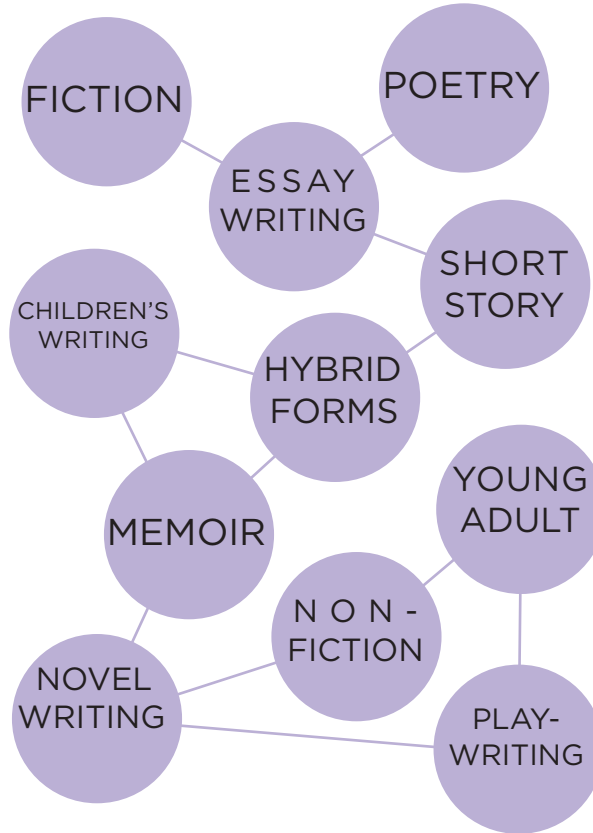
weekend, week-long, and
two-week workshops

65

distinguished faculty

885

adult learners



Now in its 34th year, The Iowa Summer Writing Festival is a noncredit, continuing education program for adult learners at all levels. Writers 18-98 years of age, from all 50 states, and from every continent come together on campus to share their work in a community that wishes it well. Most individuals come to the workshop table from other areas of expertise, other lives. These include the armed forces, business, diplomacy, education, farming, finance, homemaking, journalism, law, law enforcement, medicine, parenting, pastoral care, the performing arts, philanthropy, science, social services, and more. They come together across the genres, the generations, and at every level of literary practice in a common enterprise. They come as writers.



IOWA YOUTH WRITING PROJECT

1,815
youth engaged



30 WEEKLY WRITING WORKSHOPS

18 THEMED SUMMER WRITING CAMPS

28 UNDERGRADUATE INTERNS

84

UI undergraduates enrolled in IYWP-related courses

212
volunteers mobilized

The Iowa Youth Writing Project uses innovative exercises in language, literacy, and creative expression to empower and inspire Iowa's K-12 students. Every week, teams of devoted IYWP volunteers — University of Iowa undergraduates from a host of academic disciplines and backgrounds — visit Eastern Iowa's schools, community centers, rehabilitation facilities, and youth shelters to engage in an action-packed hour of literary creation. Youth who participate in IYWP workshops see their writing celebrated publicly in professionally designed anthologies, on the IYWP website, and at the IYWP's annual Prairie Lights reading.



FACULTY AND STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



Photo by Sandra L. Dyas

JANE HUFFMAN

The Magid Center welcomed Jane Huffman to our team in June as the Iowa Youth Writing Project's new Grants and Funding Manager. A graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, Jane was recently awarded a 2019 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation! The five winners of this impressive award were selected from over 1,500 entries. Each winner received \$25,800, making the fellowship, "one of the largest and most prestigious awards available for young poets in the United States." Jane's poems have recently been featured in *The New Yorker* among other publications, and we are thrilled for her and this amazing accomplishment.



AMY MARGOLIS

Also joining the Magid Center this year is Amy Margolis, Director of the Iowa Summer Writing Festival. Amy has worked for the festival since 1990, and been its director since 2001. Amy is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, and her short fiction has appeared in *The Iowa Review* and was nominated for a PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize for Emerging Writers. We couldn't be more thrilled to have Amy join our team!

MAGID CENTER TESTIMONIALS

"I greatly enjoyed my experience in the writing certificate and am grateful that such an opportunity is available here at the university."

2019 graduate

"There is nothing like the [Iowa Youth Writing Project]. If the IYWP never ever came into my life, I would never have found the courage to open up and lower the wall that I built to keep people out..."

IYWP participant



"The overall experience of the Iowa Summer Writing Festival felt like coming home to my writing tribe after wandering around in the desert alone for years. It was exciting, exhilarating, and so wonderful to be able to live and breathe, talk, muse, write, and learn with so many talented creative writers. I took four workshops and all four instructors were flat-out, hands-down the very best writing teachers I've ever had."

ISWF participant



"The Iowa Young Writers' Studio changed the way I read and write because its amazing students and teachers know what it is to be unabashedly in love with fiction and poetry and everything else, and they understand why other people are as well."

IYWS participant

"[The Magid Center publications] helped make me the person I am today: confident, involved, and committed. I made friends and learned important skills. [They have] shown me what I want to do in my future - and it's made me excited for what is to come!"

2019 graduate



**College of Liberal Arts
and Sciences**

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Undergraduate Writing

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