The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has designated Iowa City, Iowa, the world’s third City of Literature, making the community part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. The Creative Cities Network was designed to promote the social, economic and cultural development of cities in both the developed and the developing world. The cities that apply to join the network seek to promote their local creative scene; they share interest in UNESCO’s mission toward cultural diversity.
The seminar fee is $290 if received by June 22nd, and $375 afterwards. The fee does not include housing, transportation or food. The deadline for registration and payment is July 6th and no refunds are available after that date. We reserve the right to cancel the seminar if there is insufficient enrollment. Enrollment is limited to 16 participants. 24 contact hours of continuing education credit for social workers is offered for full participation. Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to attend all University of Iowa-sponsored events. If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to participate in this program, please contact Kate Kemp in advance at 319-335-1254.

2016 Creative Writing Seminar participants

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Improve creative writing skill in fiction, non-fiction, poetry, essays, blogs etc.
- Understand how writing can be used as a professional tool in human services work as counselors, educators, advocates, researchers and practitioners.

Writing skill topics include:
- Tuning the Creative Self with Writing
- Writing for Social Change
- Writing to Externalize Your Inner Apocalypse
- Strategies for Shaping Story, Character and Style
- Flash Fiction/NonFiction

Guest speakers will share experiences with projects related to creative writing for social change, journaling for personal growth, and/or the written word as a tool for enhancing social justice.

FEES & CREDIT

The annual Creative Writing Seminar is coordinated by Mercedes Bern-Klug, PhD, MSW, MA. Dr. Bern-Klug is on the faculty in the School of Social Work and is Director of The University of Iowa Aging & Longevity Studies Program.

Ellen Szabo, M.Ed. is the founder of Write Now, practicing and promoting the use of creative writing for personal investigation, enrichment and social change. She earned her B.A. from Harvard College, with a concentration in English and American Literature, and her M.Ed. from Columbia University Teacher’s College, in Counseling Psychology. She writes and teaches with focus on how innovation and creativity can illuminate, inspire and advocate compassionate transformation.

PRESENTERS