

School of Social Work
North Hall
City, IA 52242

www.uiowa.edu/~socialwk/creativewriting

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES
School of Social Work

National Poetry Series
for
Social Work



2013 First

The judges for the 2013 contest are:
founder and director of *Write Now*,
veteran writer, writing coach, instructor of
creative writing workshops; Sarah
from the Iowa Writers' Workshop;
Bollinger, public art coordinator;
including the Poetry in Public project.

Contest for Social Workers

the world-renowned Iowa
tional Writing Program, the
estival, The Patient Voice
tival and the Iowa Youth
20, 2009, UNESCO designated
rd City of Literature, making
SCO Creative Cities Network.
ting Seminar for Helping
y 90's when then director Tom
o graduate to teach creative
y, the seminar teaches both
of writing for healing and social

test for Social Workers was
t Coordinator Jefri Palermo
Bern-Klug with support from
hool of Social Work. Questions
riting at the School of Social
9-335-3750 or by email at

participating in the 2014
ions can be made at
[eativewriting/](#)

e a donation to the School to
ve Writing Seminar students or
ou can do so online at
[alwork](#)

About The University School of Social Work

The University of Iowa is a
university located on a 1,900-acre
southeast Iowa, on the Iowa River.
U.S. Interstate Highways 80 and 380.

Iowa is composed of 11 colleges.
is the College of Liberal Arts and
Iowa's undergraduate students. More
at Iowa each year. The University
a wide variety of cultural opportunities,
events, and a number of business
scientific and educational research.
All year major poets, writers, actors,
and others speak or perform in
at local bookstores. Excellent public
comfortable neighborhoods, and
tion mean that Iowa City frequently
place-to-live" listings in national

Established in 1847, Iowa
recognition for its wealth of achievements
es, and humanities. Iowa was the first
to admit men and women on an equal
stitution of higher education in the
work in theater, writing, music, and
advanced degrees. It established the
first educational radio station which
cast the world's first educational
developed and continues to hold
testing.

School of Social Work in the
nces is the oldest and
Iowa. The school is noted for
the entire state through dis-
grams to facilitate the educa-
s, the professionalization of
cation, an the origination of in-
ces.

been continuously accredited
education (CSWE) since 1951.
cial work became available in
when CSWE
e social work curriculum and
74. The UI PhD
doctoral program in the state
hort of students in 1998 and
Fifty-two
e and work in Iowa.

y the Creative Writing
als, in 2012 the School
cial workers and showcase
nal poetry competition. In our
poems from social work stu-
venty states. Forty-nine of the
t of a 7 line
or more information about
go to page 30.

Traci Kay Schank, Indiana Univer-

What We Are

Using education to fight oppres
Choosing questions and session
Showing individuals their possi
Helping them see all they can b
Fighting the bullies and breakin
Empowering the vulnerable, he
We are social workers; it's mor

a

y South Bend

old them up high,
her and die.

will I walk away,
this day.
ry and have gone astray.

e by your side.
p you find hope again.

FIRST PLACE WINNER

Anna Forbes, Bryn Mawr College

Leaving Today

With broom and dustpan in the
She's sweeping up the china fr
Her mouth a bruise, she moves
And, praying he's asleep, she m
Still scared but, this time, stron
"That shelter lady said to come
Suitcase in hand, she softly loc

SECOND PLACE WINNER

Sara Staggs, University of Houston

Tuesday at 3

My breath
is stolen from my chest
hearing her story of pillaged ch
wishing I could go back
whisk her from her past. Instea
I hold her pain and remind her
to breathe

University, St. Louis

dles against the wicked wind
e sweater shields her from the
ight in her tired eyes
ected designer frock
ed for this lonely alley
ted on the woolen weave
s always meant to shelter her

University

mares
From the light
ns to crack
bove a hand extends
as
hin

Julia Knipe-Mills, Indiana University

The Social Worker

Where you are may hurt, but m
You feel a terrible known is bet
And so you stay.
But what if someone offered yo
challenge to take the risk of mo
"It will not help" you say, "I am
She listens, and asks you "What
and cares.
Her nearness says "Let's journe
course".
And so, having faith and hope in

Julie A. Sims, Indiana University

You = Me

My mission is to help you.
Will you let me?
My desire is to show you a free
Will you trust me?
My goal is to empower you to d
Will you allow me?
Will you help me, help you?

-Purdue University

...e.
...n and suffering.
...power and learn.
...and happiness of others.

...iversity

orker

ker
story
nd Ended in glory
ll to Pieces, only to come to
s
your baby Steps that led to that
r inner Flame that truly

ker

Nicole Neverman, *The University*

Read Between the Lines

When you live someplace where
it screws with your mind.
Each person silently screams *please*
Prove that you'll stay.
Where **I don't need you** means
You don't own me means *give*
F* off means *you won't be here*
will.

We need to read between the lines

Katie Niehoff, *Washington University*

The Senses of Dementia

You have given me more than I
As I enter your home, I am eager
You may not recall my name, but
Our conversations may not make
you.
When you are experiencing frustration
disease, I feel you.
Being with you, makes MY day.
You have given me more.

vs; the lingering despair –
people matter and that lives shall

to wrestle in turmoil and in

and often displaces blame
of faith, character

purpose; to be loved and to be-

a guiding change to right a

oment so many years ago
owing
al worker
ession
do

Mollie Lazar Charter, University

Social Workers Ignite

We dive in tear filled eyes search
We wade through tragedies that
labor through oppressions that
we do not stop until we find that
that shimmering strength.
Then, we are kindling clinging to
clients and communities to exp
to breathe in oxygen to exhale l
determination.
We help them to ignite.

Kelli May Wilson, Chadron State

The Drive, the Desire, the De

It's a click in your brain or a lif
It's the desire to help others w
For some it's always known, fo
It's an instinct to comfort when
Integrity is grace and compass
When others ask why, say it is
Social workers perform what i
but the decision to be one com

ois-Urbana/Champaign

develop a magical power to cure
ears of abuse and poverty and

ories and trauma and

kling fairy dust just doesn't

or sprinkled in my license like

e; just me, am I hearing you

at; maybe some glitter or a

YY

soil
gy
t
dge
ty
ourney

Angela Roberts, The University of

Goodbye

You watched me grow to waist
shoes to tie.

You left without a goodbye. May
die.

Money in mom's hand, I was tal
money buy?

Dirty and forever changed, hido
would deny.

You left without goodbye. May
die.

She cleaned me with gleams of
cry.

You left without a goodbye. May
die.

Kristene Brown, Pittsburg State

Applying for Food Stamps

The mother opens her empty ha
elegant arch of a bird's slim win
but still. Not the stillness of bab
sleep, more like hummingbird h
sweet, fluttering with invisible
still-life of beak, head, wing—the
born not of greed but necessity

na University East

to they say that with pride or

ou claim justice is blind and

the mentally ill, chronically

rt poor

e horror

their eyes

denied

o

dness

harge

Melody Anderson, University of S

Counselor, Mediator, Mentor, E

Helper, Tutor, Collaborator, Adv

Guider, Supporter, Advisor and

Defender, Cheerleader, Designe

Giver of Empathy, Compassion,

Patience and Kindness for those

Social work. Wow! What an Aw

America Obregon, The Universit

To others: violent and dangerous

To me: compassionate and tho

To others: a woman lost with th

To me: a woman lost in the sys

To others: a client

To me: a mother

A mission to eliminate misconc

wish to be friends, not only clie

of Georgia

th

in this collage of spring.
water again and a spider

e buildings above are

maculate scene.

Iowa

little ones weep.

n runs deep.

ve and care

en to bear.

as the stories unfold.

er heart I hold.

ith each account retold.

Colin Ryan, The University of Iowa

A Message to New Social Workers

There is a fire that burns for all
Like moths to a light, or seekers
draws us closer,
It will not always radiate as a b
It will flicker in the chill winds
It will seem like darkness has e
world to nothing,
Hold fast and scan the landscape
embers,
Lighting silhouettes of fellow tr
not alone.

Jill Schreiber, University of Illinois

Social Work Dissertation

Alone.

Reading.

Coding.

Revising.

Yearning.

I am in social work

because I am social.

University of Iowa

Richard Kenney, University of Texas

High Plains Aims

In the high plains of Nebraska,
students ride hard for people in
They learn about values, advocacy
how to help others map futures
With careful aim at social injustice
they know the range of integrity
to be the gauge of social work.

University of Texas at Austin

er

n,
oom.
ng her gifts,
ed, the poor and the rich.
path...
ng back.
social work track.

Heather Lujano, The University of Texas

today I see my fate before me
with a clasped hand as I reach to
may peace be our focus through
eternity ensnared inside the crucible
our crystallized breath as proof
can still make a change
and hope lives

Illinois-Urban/Champaign

all planned, voices raised for
e.
th and in health. Thriving!
learn with alert interest.
deep, dream and exhale.
ervice. Guided by

ust. Lending hope. Giving

rength and change.

of Iowa

his flesh

containment.

the gilded halls of power.

red,

ard.

the fragile dream that still we

Jon Pyon, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

The clients are what make social work
The clients are in need of mental health
The clients are in need of emotional support
The clients might lash out and hurt
The clients may or may not get better
But no matter what the client needs
The social worker is always with them

Tammie Knick, Minnesota State

We Are Social Workers

We are social workers, action takers,
policy makers.

We are social justice pursuers,
vulnerability protectors, barrier breakers.

We are good listeners, task organizers,
promoters, empathizers.

We are thought provokers, community
cultural responders, story summarizers.

We are informed consent disclaimers,
Code of Ethics followers, risk takers.

We are global explorers, soul searchers,
we are social workers.

Minnesota

g of an epiphany for Iowa City

uld don a Santa suit and prance

ne Decembers to come he

und of belly and had a smile

y of the season profound, we

hosted his own Christmas

Santa, "The man who would be

University

pair

Susan Razzano, Rutgers University

Medical Social Work Promise

Since 1905, in those hospital walls
we have served

hearing your dreams and concerns
sharing the bitter and the sweet
part of the team, advocates
helping your whole self
to heal.

Nicola Rose Vogel, Indiana University

The Station

They sit in the chair before me
to the hardship, the pain and suffering
courage to share,

I tell them that they have been
rest a while.

My job is to supply the vision through
heart,

to give them the tools and map
way

to a life of fulfillment and happiness
and to help them on their way..

7

sion,
g one mission:
, sex, and color, disability and
,
unimagined,
ork profession.

sity-Indianapolis

ow my place.
o stand with fellow villagers as
of staggers and falls,
onger; giving energy to
on, creativity and a focus on
gside others; methodically
define; but it's a place in the

Greg Nooney, Loyola University

Old White Men in Diner

Red noses and fat bellies,
Surgeries and high blood press
Clustered together, birds of a fe

Johnny now on oxygen.
Fred's grandson married Ben.
Ted has to have his hip done.

"More coffee, hon?"

Emily S. Logan, Grand Valley State

Ghetto

Her referral said she was "ghett
Did they know she was in
otherwise disadvantaged
Or was it known by the b
elongated decorated nail
Her speech, her brown b
Or her defenses against a
That with kindness, resp
She might reveal her pain

Missouri-Columbia

ed Memories

rsity to enter another world,
n.
confronting a hidden but
o see.
ge abounding, quiet.
ful memories;
verwhelmed. Another day?

rsity

s
, parks and daycare centers.
nily reunions, bowling alleys.

you don't hire my kind.
children, nieces or nephews.

Kelsie Kennedy, Indiana University

Subleties

Can you see the hidden pain be
And would I buy the lies that m
Would you notice hints that I co
To let you know the depths tha
eyes?
Will you find the puzzle piece t
Revealing every inch of me I've
age?
And if I seek to be free of this d
to bury the stark truth of "them

Lindsey Ford, Indiana University

Ready, Set, Change

I may not be perfect, but I'm ce
I'm a work in progress but...
Service, importance of human r
worth of a person, competent, s
the standards I live by
Even when I encounter ethical
"Every child is an individual, and
God has allowed me the opport
families overcome their challen