Poetry UNDER THE STARS

No matter where you stand on Earth, look up and you’ll see the same sky as everyone else. The stars and planets have been a source of wonder and mystery for thousands of years. People from every culture have pondered the night sky in amazement and have been moved and inspired. There are two nights for you to enjoy.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8
Reading Poetry this month: Using the theme of “The Elements”, poet Joseph Tyler, Jamile Lawand, and University of Michigan-Flint student volunteers will read poems by contemporary Spanish-language poets (poems will be read first in Spanish, then explained/translated in English).

Joseph Tyler: Spanish
Joseph Tyler was born in Mexico and grew up in San Diego, California. His poetry has appeared in newspapers in Mexico and Argentina, and in journals such as Discurso Literario and Maiz: Xicano Notebooks. Dr. Tyler read translations of poems and stories by Borges on which the author made comments. He is currently teaching Spanish at UM-Flint. He lives in Flint and Horton, Michigan.

Jamile Trueba Lawand
Jamile Trueba Lawand teaches Spanish at the University of Michigan-Flint, where she also chairs the Foreign Languages Department and directs the “Middle Eastern” Studies Program. Born in Brazil, she was raised both in Michigan and Spain, and has travelled to several European destinations. Her interests include the literature of Spain, understanding cultural identity in the Spanish-speaking world, and the study of the Arabo-Islamic presence (711-1492) in Spain: Al-Andalus.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12
Reading Poetry this month: Guest poet Ibaa Ismail and poets from the greater Detroit area will read their poems in Arabic. Dr. Mohamed Daassa will also lead University of Michigan-Flint student volunteers reading poems in Arabic and French (poems will be read first in Arabic/French, then explained/translated in English).

Ibaa Ismail: Arabic
Ibaa Ismail published her first collection of poems in Arabic “Horses of Light and Alienation”, then “Songs of the Soul” and “The Light of My Nation”, a collection of poems for children, then “Inflammations of An Emigrant”. Her latest collection is “I Sing The Dove’s Song to the Nation”. Ibaa’s poems were included in a number of anthologies, such as The Anthology of Arab American Poetry. She participated in many evening literary performances and symposiums sponsored by different American and Arab American cultural organizations.

U of M-Flint students will also be presenting in Arabic and French.