Public Lecture

Why True Stories Matter

Distinguished Professor Emerita Lynn Bloom, University of Connecticut, USA.

In real life, compelling stories live on beyond their endings. A story is highly specific, yet universal; it could be anyone’s. True stories affirm their life-saving power as they inspire people to hear and tell their own.

In this talk, Professor Lynn Bloom will tell four stories, searing and significant, witnesses to the human condition: David Sedaris’s “Let it Snow,” a tragi-comic view of survival in a dysfunctional family, a Pulitzer-prizewinner’s tale of storytelling—transmitting cultural history—in a vast Sudanese refugee camp, Theodore Walther’s “Homeless in the City,” an insider’s defining experiences of an outsider’s life and Lynn Bloom’s “Escaping the Rapist,” her own life-saving rallying cry.

Although each story is different, their common elements include a person, family or group on the edge of a way of life, or of life itself. Each is a story full of surprises, problems, possibilities, resilience, advocacy, and hope.

Lynn Bloom is Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor Emerita at the University of Connecticut, USA, where she held the Aetna Chair of Writing 1988-2015. She learned from great writing teachers: Dr. Seuss, fun; E.B. White, elegant simplicity; Benjamin Spock, precision: “If you don’t write clearly, someone could die,” he advised when she was writing Doctor Spock: Biography of a Conservative Radical. These precepts inform the heart, soul, and human voice of her work, 25+ books and nearly 200 articles, including The Seven Deadly Virtues, Writers Without Borders, Composition Studies in the 21st Century, and “The Essay Canon.” She has received numerous research awards, and has directed writing programs from Virginia to New Mexico. She is delighted to return to the University of Waikato for a second Fulbright.

DATE
Wednesday 21 February 2018

TIME
5.15pm - 6.15 pm

VENUE
A Block, Room AG.30
University of Waikato,
Hillcrest Road, Hamilton

RSVP BY: FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2018
To: http://bit.ly/2DGd35r