Among the groves of Greece

This month, the UI International Writing Program will bring together 16 intellectuals from across the world on Itros, a small island off the coast of Greece. There they will discuss The Commons, communal possessions such as air and water, that are sometimes privatized by market forces.

By Soheil Rezayazdi

On paper, it sounds more like an academic conference. For Christopher Merrill, director of the UI’s International Writing Program, the plan was simple: Wrangle a dozen or so intellectuals from across the world to spend a week on an island off the coast of Greece, to read and discuss Alan Merill’s book, The Commons. It was Merrill’s idea, he writes in his essay on the numeracy of the commons, to open up our intellectual world to “we who are not a bad idea to bring together some of the most articulate people around... to discuss what is that binds us together.”

— Christopher Merrill, director of the UI International Writing Program

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BY MAGGIE ANDERSON

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Judson, who will graduate with a Ph.D. in music composition from the UI School of Music this month, performs in a world where humans and machines share the stage. Every time he performs, he will try to make it sound real.

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