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**Random House Struik leads the way by presenting an online creative writing course**

The recent merger of South Africa's two most prominent book publishers, Random House and Struik Publishers, resulted in the formation of Random House Struik. The newly formed company is the **largest general trade publisher** in Southern Africa, and is now leading the way with creative writing education.

Random House Struik has partnered with Getsmarter, a specialist internet-based training company, to present the part-time **Random House Struik Short Course in Creative Writing**. As the course is offered via the Internet, both local and international students will be accepted on the course.

The Random House Struik Short Course in Creative Writing is a 10-week part-time course presented internationally in an internet-based distance learning format. The course is ideal for anyone who has dreamt of writing a novel or a short story as well as accomplished writers, fiction or non-fiction, who wish to bring more flair and drama to their work. The course is compiled and convened by American professional literary agent, editor and author Ron Irwin.

Getsmarter's advanced and user-friendly learning model provides students with a personal and professional educational experience. Students work through the course material together mirroring a typical face-to-face classroom environment online and receive continuous academic and administrative assistance throughout the duration of the course. Each of the 10 modules includes course notes; discussion forums where students interact with one another; an interactive "test your knowledge" quiz as well as video lectures to make the course material engaging. The course module titles include planning the story; the importance of beginnings; characters and characterization; plot vs. story; dialogue; point of view; conflict; and tying it all up.

In addition to the core coursework, students become part of a network of writers. This means that as the course progresses, students not only make friends with fellow writers; share creative writing pieces, contacts and ideas, but are also given the opportunity to review each others work and receive rich personal feedback on their work.

A further benefit of this course is that Random House Struik have committed to read and consider the top manuscripts from the course.

**The course is due to start on the 8 February 2010 and registrations close on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2010. Please contact Karin on +27 21 683 3633 or [karin@getsmarter.biz](mailto:karin@getsmarter.biz) for further information.**