

Remembering Charlie Simic

**UNH Honors Writer's Legacy with
Shared Reading**
by Shelley Girdner

Friends, colleagues, and students of the poet Charles Simic gathered in Hamilton Smith Hall on April 19th, to honor the writer's vast legacy with a shared reading of his published works.

Volunteers signed up to read a poem or prose selections. Most readers shared favorites poems, several coming from his landmark collection *The World Doesn't End*, the first book of prose poems to win the Pulitzer Prize. Journalism professor Tom Haines shared one of Simic's columns from *The New York Review of Books*.

Throughout the event, participants offered great stories and a feast of irreverent language and stunning imagery, captured so aptly in Simic's off-kilter, deeply observant way. Which is to say, the gathering offered companionship in both our sorrow for and our admiration of Charles Simic.

Of course, people behind the scenes paved the way: Carla Cannizzaro and Janine Wilks offered vision and support at every turn. David Blair helped

Charlie Simic
Day

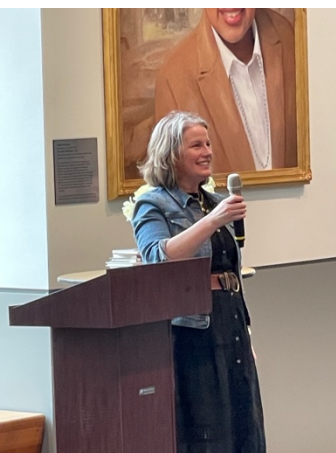


L I V E P O E T R Y
R E A D I N G

HAMILTON SMITH HALL ATRIUM
APRIL 19TH, 12:00-1:30PM

get this idea off the ground and consistently championed it in all kinds of ways. David Rivard's encouragement and deep connection to MFA alumni was essential in fostering a meaningful event. Jim Rioux and former UNH lecturer Pam Barksdale created thoughtful supplementary materials.

Many thanks to the readers who showed up for this, including Dean Michele Dillon, our department Chair James Krasner, Tom Haines, Andy Merton,



Shelley Girdner leads the
reading of Simic's work



Jim Rioux reads Simic's work
Photo by Shelley Girdner

David Rivard, David Blair, Jim Rioux, Amy Sauber, Marc Paltrineri, Kathleen Marais Paltrineri, Maria Chelko, Bryan Evans-Jones, Andrew Periale, Noah Burton, and all the others like Paul Marino who jumped in. Thanks as well to the audience members, to the teachers who brought their students, and to those of you who even just paused on the stairs to listen in.

A special thanks to Ann DeCiccio for not only reading, but also for bringing Amy Jo Minett, a professor from Salem State University, who shared her personal copy of

Charles Simic's first chapbook of poems. It was a reverent pause, to stand at a little table with Amy Jo, Ann, and Dean Dillon, all of us bowing our heads to the book, taking in for just a moment, that sweet scent of the aging page.



Dean Michele Dillon
Photo by Shelley Girdner



Essay Contest Award Winners Present at URC

Darien Garner presented "Dystopia in the 21st Century: Where the Genre Needs to Take Us Next" at the Undergraduate Research Conference All Colleges Undergraduate Research Symposium (URC) on April 21, 2023.

Garner, a double major in Linguistics & Educational Studies ('25), received the Feminist Theory Essay Contest Award (March 2023) for their work produced as part of Professor Stephanie Harzewski's ENGL 520: Dystopian and Post-Apocalyptic Fiction J-Term 2023 class.

Garner (right) is pictured at the URC with the other Feminist Theory Essay Contest Award winner, Aliya Sarris, '23 (left).

Photo courtesy of Stephanie Harzewski

UNH English Updates Major

English Majors: Watch for a “Simplified System” and Writing Minor Option

by Doug Lanier

The English Department is pleased to announce a revision of our requirements for the English major. In many ways, this newly organized major looks very much like the major at present. Under the new major, for example, students will still be required to take our foundational course, ENGL 419: How to Read Anything. However, we now will require you to take two 500-level literature survey classes, one covering pre-1800 literature (ENGL 512, 513, or 515) and one covering post-1800 literature (ENGL 514, 516, or 581). The centerpiece of the revised major will be five subject areas:

- Linguistics / Writing
- Genres / Theory
- Race, Gender and Postcolonial Studies
- Literature before 1800
- Literature after 1800

You'll need to take one course in each of these areas, and in addition you will take at least two electives (from any area in the English curriculum).

The major culminates with English 787, the

English Major seminar, which every student will be required to take in order to satisfy the Capstone requirement. (The department plans on offering two English 787s each semester, so that you have a choice of topics for your Capstone.)

This simplified system eliminates the confusing practices of double-counting courses and declaring your Capstone, so that it will be easier to chart your progress toward completing the degree. The good news is that by eliminating double-counting, we can now make available the English Writing minor to English majors, so long as you satisfy the requirements for both courses of study.

If you declared your English Major before 15 May 2023, you'll be grand-fathered in under the present requirements. However, if you want to switch to the new English major requirements, you can do so by contacting your advisor or Carla Cannizzaro in the English office. During the summer, we'll be posting a more detailed description of the revised major and courses—look for it!

Write your own story:
Join the UNH English major



HOT MESS

spoken stories - no notes - ten minutes

May 2 - 3:30-5:00 PM - freedom cafe, durham

starring:

lily pudlo

shannon garvey

danny missroon

cat casey

paul marino

UNH Poets and Piano Students Collaborate

Wednesday, May 3
8:00 PM
Bratton Recital Hall

Mathilde Handelsman, who is a classical pianist who teaches in the music department, is also a poet who publishes her books in France. She initiated a collaborative project for her piano students and poets in UNH's MFA Writing Program over the course of the fall and spring semesters this year, and she even brought some of her own French poems with her to a workshop. This performance will combine poetry reading and piano recital with poems inspired by works by Satie and Debussy.

Celebrate UNH English Graduates

Thursday, May 18
1:00 PM
Hamilton Smith
Atrium

Join the Graduation Celebration for 2023 UNH English graduates on Thursday, May 18, 1 PM, in the Hamilton Smith Atrium. This event is open to all recent graduates and includes light refreshments and presentation of graduation cords.

RSVP at <https://cola.unh.edu/english/grad-reception>