

OCTE Newsletter

Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English, c/o Dianna Just, 440758 E. 230 Rd., Vinita, OK 74301

OCTE welcomes poet Charles Simic

Poet Laureate to speak during spring conference



Charles Simic

"There are few poets writing in America today who share his lavish appetite for the bizarre, his inexhaustible repertoire of indelible characters and gestures ... Simic is perhaps our most disquieting muse."--Harvard Review

Charles Simic was born on May 9, 1938, in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, where he had a traumatic childhood during World War II. In 1954 he emigrated from Yugoslavia with his mother and brother to join his father in the United States. They lived in and around Chicago until 1958.

His first poems were published in 1959, when he was twenty-one. In 1961 he was drafted into the U.S. Army, and in 1966 he earned his Bachelor's degree from New York University while working at night to cover the costs of tuition.

His first full-length collection of poems, *What the Grass Says*, was published the following year. Since then he has published more than sixty books in the U.S. and abroad, twenty titles of his own poetry among them, including *That Little Something* (Harcourt, 2008), *My Noiseless Entourage* (2005); *Selected Poems: 1963-2003* (2004), for which he received the 2005 International Griffin Poetry Prize; *The Voice at 3:00 AM: Selected Late and New Poems* (2003); *Night Picnic* (2001); *The Book of Gods and Devils* (2000); and *Jackstraws* (1999), which was named a Notable Book of the Year by the New York Times.

His other books of poetry include *Walking the Black Cat* (1996), which was a finalist for the National Book Award; *A Wedding in Hell* (1994); *Hotel Insomnia* (1992); *The World Doesn't End: Prose Poems* (1990), for which he received the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry; *Selected Poems: 1963-1983* (1990); and *Unending Blues* (1986).

Simic has also published numerous translations of French, Serbian, Croatian, Macedonian, and Slovenian poetry, and is the author of several books of essays, including *Orphan Factory*. He has edited several anthologies, including an edition of *The Best American Poetry* in 1992.

Simic was appointed the fifteenth Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry in 2007. "I am especially touched and honored to be selected because I am an immigrant boy who didn't speak English until I was 15," responded Simic after being named Poet Laureate.

Simic was chosen to receive the Academy Fellowship in 1998, and elected a Chancellor of The Academy of American Poets in 2000. He has received numerous awards, including fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts, and was elected to The American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1995.

Most recently, he was announced as the recipient of the 2007 Wallace Stevens Award by the Academy of American Poets. Simic is Emeritus Professor of the University of New Hampshire where he has taught since 1973.

Spring Conference - April 1, 2009 - Oklahoma City University Campus

Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English Tentative Spring 2009 Conference Schedule

8:00 - 9:00

Registration, Exhibits - Rotunda
Breakfast - Third Floor

9:00 - 9:50 Sessions

A- “Two Tables Over: Writing the World Around You” - Nathan Brown, Oklahoma Poet - Kerr McKee Auditorium

B- “Accordion Cards and other “Crafty” Ideas” - Roxanne Grissom, Chouteau High School

C- Resident and Student Teacher Forum - Teresa Rothrock, East Central University and Mark Letcher, University of Oklahoma - Room 329

D- “Write Smart! Using Graphic Organizers and Drafting Templates to workSmart-NotHard!” Beta Noel, Holt McDougal, Houghton Mifflin Co

10:00 - 11:30 - Charles Simic, Poet Presentation - Kerr McKee Auditorium

sponsored by OCU and the Petree College of Arts and Sciences Center for Interpersonal Studies Through Film and Literature

11:45 - 1:20 - Luncheon - Sponsored by Holt McDougal and OCTE with awards to the Young Writers Contest Writers, announcement of Geraldine Burns’s recipients, and OCTE election of officers for 2009-1010

1:30 - 2:20 p.m. Sessions

YWA Student Writers meet with judges

A- “Poetry Myths: Mythic Poetry” - Shaun Perkins, Pryor High School

B- “Movement Meets Method” - Brian Grimm, Will Rogers High School

C- “The English Verb Wall: Visualizing Grammar” - Pam Kaatz, Color Connection, Denton, Texas (note: this session will continue until 3:30 p.m.)

D- “So They’ve Asked You to Sponsor School Publications” - Darla Tresner, Bartlesville Mid- and Senior High Schools

1:30 - 3:30 Sessions:

“The English Verb Wall: Visualizing Grammar” - Pam Kaatz, Color Connection, Denton, TX

2:30 - 3:20 p.m. Sessions

OCTE Board Meeting - Rotunda

A- “What High School Students Need to Know About Writing in College” - Linda Steele, University of Central Oklahoma

B- “Using New Media to Enhance Curriculum” - Darla Tresner, Bartlesville Mid- and Senior High Schools

C- “The English Verb Wall: Visualizing Grammar” - Pam Kaatz

Oklahoma English Journal--Call for Papers

Spring 2009 issue: Creative Writing, Creative Teaching

In the face of high stakes testing and students' overbooked lives, the desire to streamline curriculum and classroom activities can sometimes distract us from the value of and place for creativity in the classroom.

What academic value does creative writing have in today's classrooms?

What creative forms of teaching work well in ordinary classrooms?

How can creativity be encouraged? or assessed?

To what end can education contribute to the innovative thinking desired in the work world?

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The Oklahoma English Journal, the official publication of the Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English, publishes articles of interest to English teachers and language arts instructors, regardless of teaching level.

☐ Articles should be theoretically based yet pedagogically applicable at a variety of levels, dealing with the teaching of writing, reading, or literature—generally or specifically—and should anticipate the needs of teachers at all classroom levels, elementary through college. Articles, including references and appendices, should be kept under 12 pages, although longer articles may be published when justified by substance and likely reader interest.

☐ Book reviews will be limited to books of likely professional interest to English teachers. Starting Fall 2008, a section dedicated to Young Adult Literature will begin.

☐ Brief counterstatements which respond directly to published articles will be considered for publication. Such counterstatements should be kept under 500 words.

☐ Poetry and short essays will also be considered for special sections and should be brief and appropriate for our readership.

Submissions, not previously published, should be double-spaced with ample margins and include a brief bio of the author(s). They should follow current MLA format for attribution and citation and the *NCTE Guidelines for Non-Sexist Use of Language*.

Submissions should be sent electronically to trothrock@ecok.edu. Authors may mail submissions via U. S. Postal Service to:

Dr. Teresa Rothrock
Oklahoma English Journal
Department of English and Languages
East Central University
1100 E. 14th Street
Ada, OK 74820-6999

You may contact Teresa Rothrock by phone at 580-559-5439.

Submission Receipt Deadlines:

Spring: March 1, 2009

Fall: August 1, 2009

Theme: Creativity in the Classroom

Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English

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OCTE MEMBERSHIP FORM Annual Dues

Single Membership \$25
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Send to: OCTE, c/o Dianna Just, 440758 E. 230 Road, Vinita, OK 74301 (918) 256-5654 ~ djust@junct.com

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone _____

Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

Teaching Level: _____

Please mail correspondence to: _____ Home _____ School

Please make checks payable to OCTE.

Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English
2009 Spring Conference Registration
April 1, 2009
Oklahoma City University

Member Registration:

_____ \$20 Registration for members (includes Continental breakfast and lunch)

_____ \$15 Teacher candidates/students (includes Continental breakfast and lunch)

Non-member Registration:

_____ \$25 (includes Continental breakfast and lunch)

\$ _____ Total amount included (Please make checks payable to OCTE.)

If paying by purchase order, please give PO# _____.

Name (for name tag):

School or

Institution: _____

Mailing Address:

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Mail Registration form with payment to: Deborah Brown

2841 Huntleigh Drive

Oklahoma City, OK 73120

djbrown@ucok.edu

Registrations must be received by Wednesday, March 25 so that we can order the correct number of meals. If you need to register on-line and then pay the day of the conference, please contact Deborah Brown at djbrown6@cox.net or djbrown@uco.edu. Thanks.

The conference will be at the Meinders Building
on the campus of Oklahoma City University.

Be Sure to Join Us April 1 in OKC on the campus of Beautiful OCU!

Special Highlights

--Poet Charles Simic

--Continental Breakfast and Awards Luncheon

--Geraldine Burns Winners will be recognized

--Young Writers Contest Winners to be recognized

--Earn Professional Development Credit

**Mark Your Calendars Today
for Our Fall 2009
Conference to be held
Sept. 25!**