



DTH/GALEN CLARKE

Senior Emily Snider reads her story "Circles," which placed second in the fourth-annual Mini Max Short Short Fiction contest, to a small crowd Tuesday in Greenlaw Hall. The contest is held by the Creative Writing Program.

No shortage of writing talent

BY HARRY KAPLOWITZ
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes, less is more. The old adage rang true Tuesday as the University's Creative Writing Program hosted the 4th annual Mini Max Short Short Fiction competition reading in Greenlaw Hall's Donovan Lounge. The competition is named after Max Steele, former director of the writing program. Selections had to be 500 words or less. "Max Steele loved compression — he loved taut narrative," said Bland Simpson, director of the writing program. "He was a genius of a teacher and a beautiful writer." Dave Korzon, one of the competition's judges and publisher of The Rambler magazine, expanded on the nature of short short fiction in his opening address. "It's very difficult to pull off," he said. "All of the entries were enjoyed, and if you didn't win, keep an even keel because competitions like this one are very subjective." Meg Austin, a senior classics major and former DTH columnist,

won first place in the competition for her story "Chop." "It's kind of weird to have won," she said. "I definitely thought the other stories that were read were better than mine." Austin said her story originated after seeing the painting "Leda and the Swan" in a museum. "It's kind of a random story," she said. "I was just looking at the painting, and my mind just started working." Second place in the competition went to Emily Snider, a senior English major, for her story "Circles." Peter Wylie, a junior journalism and mass communications major, won third place for "A Dance." "It's about hope being put off for so long, and when it finally reveals itself, it's ultimately a facade," Wylie said of his story. Honorable mentions in the competition went to Josh Long for "Numbers," DTH cartoonist Philip McFee for "Focus" and Catalina Palfreman for "Cousins." Simpson said Steele came up with the idea for the competition about five years ago.

"He visited nearly every creative writing professor's classroom," Simpson said. "We've always had classes that taught short fiction, but never short short fiction." Simpson defines short short fiction as any fictional piece of fewer than 1,000 words. "The works are all over the map — we always get quite a variety," Simpson said. "Some are very humorous and some are quite poignant. There's no pattern to what they're all about." Simpson said the competition is important to the University's department because the \$100 first place prize motivates people to try their hands at something different. He also said that it's important to showcase different, unique forms of writing, which is what Steele wanted. "Exposure to short short fiction engenders interest in that form and keeps us thinking about it and what's out there."

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

POLICE LOG

- A student reported Wednesday that a credit card and drivers license were stolen from her purse in Ehringhaus Residence Hall on Nov. 12, according to University police reports. The two cards were the only things missing from the victim's purse, reports state. Police found no forced entry into the room, and the matter is under further investigation, according to reports.
- Herdon State Farm Insurance reported that it was the victim of breaking and entering by force and larceny from a building at 7:14 a.m. Monday, Chapel Hill police reports state. Reports state that the company, located at 1506 E. Franklin St., Apt. 104, reported \$1,000 in damage to a door and one checkbook stolen. The incident is under further investigation, according to reports.
- Larceny of gas was reported

- by the Mini Mart at 1200 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. at 1:33 p.m. Monday, according to Chapel Hill police reports.
- F&W Management Corporation reported vandalism and willful damage to property at 8:13 a.m. Monday at Timberlyne Apartments, Chapel Hill police reports state. Several items were found spray painted at the complex at 200 Westminster Drive, reports state. Reports state that more than \$200 in damage was done to the pool house, an outside lamp and a bush.
- Frazier Financial at 109 Conner Drive, Apt. 205, reported that it was the victim of breaking and entering by force and larceny at 11:01 a.m. Monday, according to Chapel Hill police reports. Reports state that a laptop computer valued at \$800 was reported stolen.

- The case is under further investigation, according to reports.
- A Durham resident was arrested for not having a drivers license at 2:30 a.m. Tuesday on Raleigh Road, Chapel Hill police reports state. LaMont Cobb, 35, of 107 Briggs St., B, was cited and released on a written promise to appear Jan. 1 in district criminal court in Chapel Hill, according to reports.
- A Swansboro man was arrested at 12:54 a.m. Sunday on a misdemeanor charge of assault inflicting injury at 201 E. Franklin St., according to Chapel Hill police reports. Reports state that Robert Louis Falcon, 37, of 207 Brigatine Court, struck a person on the head with a pool stick. Falcon is slated to appear Jan. 30 in district criminal court in Hillsborough, according to reports.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- Doug Bandow from the CATO Institute will speak on the morality of capitalism at noon today in Union 3515.
- Eve Ensler, author of "The Vagina Monologues" and "The Good Body," will speak at 1:15 p.m. today in the Student Union Cabaret. She will hold a book signing afterward.
- In honor of Disability Awareness Day, there will be free food, games and discussion forums from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. today in the Rams Head Recreation Center.
- The White Ribbon Campaign, a men's anti-domestic violence group, will present "Tough Guise" at 7 p.m. today in Murphey 101. A discussion on masculinity will follow.
- A neighborhood conservation district meeting will be held for the Greenwood neighborhood at 7 p.m. today at Town Hall.

- The Inside Issues committee of the Carolina Union Activities Board will host a healthy food cook-off at 6 p.m. today in Carmichael Ballroom. Cooking starts at 6 p.m. and judging begins at 7 p.m.
- PlayMakers Repertory Company's production of "String of Pearls" by Michele Lowe continues at 8 p.m. today in the Paul Green Theatre, located in the Center for Dramatic Art on Country Club Road. Call 962-PLAY for tickets.
- The Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence invites undergraduate students and faculty who have required undergraduate students to develop media projects as part of assigned coursework to submit films, Web sites, digital images and other media projects for inclusion in the fourth annual Multimedia Festival. The festival will be held at the James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence from

- Feb. 20 to Feb. 27. Deadline for submissions is Dec. 13. Visit www.johnstoncenter.unc.edu for more information.
- "Jack Kerouac: The Road Revisited" continues on display in the Melba Remig Saltarelli Room of Wilson Library. The exhibit highlights materials from the Rare Book Collection holdings and features the original typescript of Kerouac's "On the Road."
- "Beyond the Wall: The Realities of Palestinian Displacement," a photography exhibit of a Palestinian refugee camp composed by a group of UNC students who spent last summer in Jordan, opens today in the Union Underground. A reception will begin at 7 p.m. To make a calendar submission, visit <http://www.dailytarheel.com> for a list of submission policies and contacts. Events must be sent in by noon the preceding publication date.

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