



The University of Vermont  
FACULTY SENATE

**Resolution in Memoriam  
Reno Thomas Simone  
Professor Emeritus of English  
1943-2022**

**Presented by Huck Gutman, Professor Emeritus of English  
May 19, 2022**

The UVM Department of English is sad to report that a beloved colleague and friend, Dr. Reno Thomas Simone, Emeritus Professor of English, passed away on March 19, 2022. Born in 1943 in Kalamazoo, Michigan, he grew up in Ohio and Arizona. He went to college at Dartmouth and completed a Ph.D. in English at Claremont Graduate School in 1973.

Tom taught in the English Department for over fifty years. He was a mainstay in teaching Shakespeare, Dante, Ibsen, Homer, Joyce, Mann, Woolf, Tolstoy and even Richard Wagner. He helped found, and for many years was an anchor of, the Integrated Humanities Program, whose many students were enriched by what he taught them. One could talk with him about large things, about the greatness of art; students also found they could argue with him about those things.

For years, he and his wife Susan Shull travelled to London and New York and other venues to hear the finest in classical music performances. What most characterized him was his love of art, his deep attraction to the attempts by human beings to understand life and to celebrate its beauties. In the final decade of his life, Tom translated the three books of Dante's *Divine Comedy*, translations that have been widely acclaimed. In his final year, Tom read his translation into a recorder, so that his sense of Dante's greatness could be available through Audible. This final project sustained him. Even as his last days approached, he was moving ever onward, ever deeper, into the art which so enchanted him.

He was a man of bravery, possessed of great courage as he faced the decline which lies ahead for all of us. In some ways, and the Greeks understood this well, a man or woman's life is a preparation for how we face death: In this sense, Tom Simone was a model, a man whose reading and great learning prepared him for the final confrontation of his days.

It is a strange thing about art, that it penetrates deeper into our lives than anything else, except perhaps love; and as one can love art as well as one can love other persons, art may be one of the paradigmatic aspirations and creations of human existence. Tom loved art, loved art. His life and wonderfully rich teaching may be summarized by the words of the German poet Friedrich Hölderlin : "Einmal/ Lebt ich, wie Götter, und mehr bedarfs nicht." "Once/ I'll have lived like the gods, and more isn't necessary."