



Eastern Region



Fall 2005 Newsletter

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Regent's Report

Fall always seems to come too quickly, summer suddenly disappearing in the crush of classes and the piles of student papers every new school year brings. But the onset of fall also means the semi-annual Sigma Tau Delta board meeting, always held in the convention city where, amidst the discussion of budgets and other business, we get a preview of coming attractions. And this year, the news is all good. The society is sound financially, and Portland promises to be one of the best convention sites ever, even with its reputation (exaggerated for sure) for rain.

Portland, Oregon 2006: "Green"

You want to be in Portland. Planning for the convention is moving ahead. This year, the program will feature four speakers, including Ted Kooser, our current poet laureate and winner of last spring's Pulitzer Prize for Poetry; Mark Salzman, who has three novels, three works of nonfiction (the first of which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize), and one film to his credit; Kim Addonizio, who publishes both poetry and fiction; and Katja Esson, a filmmaker whose short documentary *Ferry Tales* was nominated for an Academy Award. The convention program will feature a mini-film festival of her work, in addition to her lecture. The Common Reader, Mark Salzman's *True Notebooks*, offers a very readable and thought-provoking account of his work teaching creative writing workshops in the detention facility for violent juvenile

offenders in Los Angeles. We couldn't ask for a better lineup.

And Portland is a remarkable place, with everything a Sigma Tau Deltan could ever want. There is, for starters, the largest used-book store in the world, occupying a full city block, a half-mile from the Hilton. And there is coffee, really good coffee, everywhere. And art: The Portland Art Museum is only blocks away and includes a terrific collection of regional artists, including a very strong showing of Native American work from the Pacific Northwest. This collection features some pre-contact pieces, 10,000 years old, which you can only see in Portland.

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Call for Reviewers

As the chair of this year's convention, I can use some help. We expect some 500-600 submissions for this year's convention, all of which will need to be reviewed for possible inclusion on the program. I am looking for faculty members willing to act as reviewers. Submissions must be postmarked by November 25; program invitations need to be emailed early in January. If you have a day to spare between the end of finals and the first of the year and would be willing to review submissions, I am looking for volunteers. Please email me at robert.crafton@sru.edu and let me know your academic specialty and/or preferred category of material and your mailing address. Each reviewer will read, rank, and draft a short response, several sentences in length, for each of approximately 20 submissions.

Continued: Portland, Oregon 2006: "Green"

The museum is currently in the final stages of being renovated and will be fully operational by the time we arrive in March. And there is so much more: The Chinese Classical Garden in Chinatown; the Japanese-American Historical Plaza on the banks of the Willamette River; the Japanese garden just out of town; shops, brew pubs, galleries—and all either in walking distance or reachable on the free shuttle that serves the downtown area. The Hilton is right in the middle of everything.

And the news only gets better. A trip to Portland should be affordable. Registration and hotel charges remain unchanged from last year, with the cost per room again running in the range of \$105 per night.

NCTE in Pittsburgh

Finally, the associated English Honor Societies—Sigma Tau Delta (for four-year institutions of higher education), Sigma Kappa Delta (for two-year colleges), and the National English Honor Society (for high school students) will have an informational booth at the National Council of Teachers of English convention being held this fall from Nov. 17-20 in Pittsburgh. If you're in Pittsburgh for the convention, stop by and say hello. If you have an hour to spare and would like to help at the booth, let me know, and I will slot you in. We will have promotional literature for each of the societies, including information on the benefits of joining and instructions for chartering a chapter. With the Sigma Tau Delta convention scheduled for Pittsburgh in spring 2007, this is an

Airfares have been fluctuating, but seem to run in the \$300 range, taxes included, at least from Pittsburgh. In short, Portland should cost no more than your trip to Kansas City last year. But the really good news is that we are doubling the amount of money chapters are reimbursed for sending a student representative to the business meeting—from \$100 in the last several years to \$200 this year. The news really is all good.

Check the society's website and mailings for additional information. We will have two new categories for submissions—one for dramatic works, the other devoted to convention presentations featuring the Common Reader—and new awards.

excellent time to preview the city and to charter new chapters in the region. SKD will celebrate its tenth anniversary this year; if you have contact with your local community college English faculty, suggest they charter a chapter. Information is available at www.English2.org. Information about the newly-formed NEHS is available at www.nehs.us. Check out their web sites; recommend them to your friends teaching in your local high schools and community colleges; and come visit us at our booth in the exhibit hall at the NCTE convention in November.

I hope to see you all soon, if not in Pittsburgh in November, then in Portland next March.

-Bob Crafton, Slippery Rock University

Happy Birthday Oct~Nov~Dec

October

- 2 Wallace Stevens
- 14 e e cummings
- 15 Virgil
- 16 Oscar Wilde
- 21 Samuel Taylor Coleridge
- 24 Denise Levertov
- 27 Sylvia Plath
- 31 John Keats

November

- 1 Stephan Crane
- 7 Bram Stoker
- 9 Anne Sexton
- 13 Robert Louis Stevenson
- 22 George Eliot

December

- 3 Joseph Conrad
- 5 Christina Rossetti
- 9 John Milton
- 10 Emily Dickinson
- 16 Jane Austen
- 24 Matthew Arnold
- 25 Carlos Castaneda
- 30 Rudyard Kipling

Looking for a better way to keep in touch with other chapters? Why not try the Eastern Region's bulletin board! Located at www.english.org under the News/Bulletin Board link.

Lynzie Biaas

"It's a city made for English majors"

Greetings from your Eastern SR

Fall Greetings Eastern Region! So summer has finally passed with its final blaze of heat and fall's chill is now upon us. Not to reminisce, but it seems like just yesterday that we were "jazzing it up" in Kansas City and now we are already preparing for, what in my opinion will be, a spectacular convention in Portland, Oregon. All I can say is wow! What a cool city! As Dr. Crafton already mentioned it's a city made for English majors, with its art museums, fabulous gardens, and, not to mention Powell's, only the greatest and most expansive bookstore I have ever seen! Barnes and Noble, eat your heart out! This place is so big that they give you a map when you walk in, although I wouldn't mind getting lost in a place like that.

Besides the wonderful preview of Portland at this year's fall board meeting, I have been extremely busy. I spent my entire summer (and weekends until the end of October) interning at the Pennsylvania

Renaissance Faire. I have been working in the Public Relations and Marketing department doing everything from working closely with the press, to serving as a Faire photographer! It has been a wonderful experience and I will be sad for it to end.

Beyond the working world I have been working with the other officers of my home chapter, Kappa Pi, to make sure that this year is as great as last year. We have many fantastic activities planned for this year that I'm sure will keep me on my toes. And of course, classes, somehow between all of the other stuff going on we find time for classes and homework, although I'm not always sure how!

Anyway, that's all I have for now, but I would love to hear from you. If you have questions, concerns, ideas, or you just want to chat, e-mail me at Lynzielue41@aol.com, it would be great to hear from you!

-Lynzie Biggs, Alvernia College

Greetings from your Eastern ASR

Hello STD'ers! Summer has come and passed and we are now officially in fall. It was a busy summer, between preparing for graduate school and putting together research materials for my thesis this year. However, I am very happy to be back at The College of New Jersey and to start the new semester. It's already gotten off to a big start with the Walt Whitman Symposium, in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the first edition of *Leaves of Grass*. I've learned more about Walt Whitman than I could have anticipated, saw a wonderful jazz concert that matched music to the text of *Leaves of Grass*, and met some excellent poets at a poetry reading in honor of Walt Whitman. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Other than that, things have just been about getting back into the typical groove. I experienced the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire for the first time a few weeks ago, and I met William Shakespeare, so that was quite a moment. I also have the upcoming conference "The Witching Hour" in

Salem, Massachusetts next weekend and I am very excited about that! What I am most looking forward to however is the conference in Portland! We've already started working out the arrangements for Portland, since we all had such a great time in Kansas City last year. I've also never been to Portland before, so this will be a new experience for me.

My chapter has been busy as usual, and I'm very proud of what we have planned for this year. We already have successfully put on one program for current freshmen English majors, and we have three more big programs in the works, beyond the core programming we usually do. It's a big year as it is the tenth anniversary of when our chapter was first chartered, so we have lots of events in the works!

Anyhow, that's all the news there is to give. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at gill4@tcnj.edu. I love hearing from people!

-Jessica Gill, The College of New Jersey

Jessica Gill

"I've learned more about Walt Whitman than I could have anticipated"

Fresh Year, Fresh Hopes: Revitalizing Xi Xi

What's an organization to do when their chapter has been defunct for years? While the Xi Xi chapter once enjoyed great prosperity at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, a state school in southwestern PA, it has struggled through the past decades. No one person was at fault, but it is Xi Xi's hope that new leadership can help the organization once again flourish. The officers' first priority is to build membership—without new members, none of their plans could take place. Approximately fifteen students attended the first autumn meeting; past meetings have gone unattended.

As members become involved, some have volunteered to sit at the organization's booth for the upcoming student life fair, while others intend to "jazz up" the chapter's bulletin board. Although the chapter is just restarting, the members and officers truly hope that they can bring Sigma Tau Delta Xi Xi to glory as they spread the word about this great organization. Xi Xi strongly encourages other chapters, especially those that may be struggling, to get involved at their universities. Offering tutoring or workshops can help members to get involved within their university and department, while various outings can help unify the chapter and provoke interest in Sigma Tau Delta.

Chapter Spotlight: Alpha Mu Upsilon

On May 4th 2005, the Alpha Mu Upsilon Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta at Mount Saint Mary College held a ceremony for the induction of charter members and the installation of officers. Dr. Daniel Shea, Assistant Professor of English, delivered the keynote speech, which included a brief history of Sigma Tau Delta and its importance to our campus. On May 20th 2005, our chapter inducted graduating seniors who met the membership requirements into Sigma Tau Delta. Audrey Scollan, Alumni Representative, will be keeping all of the members who have graduated informed of upcoming events that our chapter will be having. Since we are a new chapter, we are planning to hold an induction ceremony within the next month for new members who meet criteria. We hope to become very involved in the local community and to raise money for the chapter by planning many interactive fundraisers.

Attention Ohio Chapters...

The Ohio Northern University Delta Iota chapter will be hosting a conference for all Ohio chapters of Sigma Tau Delta on Saturday, November 5, 2005. The keynote speaker for the day is Dr. Claude "Bud" Smith, poet and author of such works including *Quarter-Acre of Heartache* and *The Stratford Devil*. Other events include STD alum and ONU grad Matt Rolf, who will be discussing his experiences with STD.

There will also be panel presentations in the genres of fiction/poetry, non-fiction, and literary essays, with specific themes being determined by the submissions. Submissions must be postmarked by October 14. There will also be chapter discussions dealing with fundraising, chapter activities, and member involvement. If you have any questions, please contact Emily Zepf at e-zepf@onu.edu.

NEHS: The National English Honor Society

Attention all future and current high school teachers! Sigma Tau Delta now has the National English Honor Society for high school students that excel in English. Win points with your school by suggesting a charter of the NEHS which allows for additional scholarship and award opportunities; distinction on college and job applications; opportunities to develop leadership skills; and publication opportunities for current high school students. For current and future teachers, the NEHS provides

you with the opportunity to grow professionally by networking with other creative English teachers; help your students appreciate literature and excel at the discourse of literature; and bring your students and school to a level of national recognition. Let NEHS help you make a difference and improve a student's educational experience! For more information visit the NEHS website www.NEHS.us. Hooray for the National English Honor Society!



**A Big Welcome
to the Newest
ΣΤΔ Chapters in the
East!**

-New Chapters-

Mount Vernon
Nazarene
University
-Mount
Vernon, OH-

Hilbert College
-Hamburg, NY-

University of
Massachusetts at
Boston
-Boston, MA-

Lehman College,
CUNY
-Bronx, NY-

SUNY, Stony Brook
University
-Stony Brook, NY-

-Reactivated Chapters-

Morgan State
University
-Baltimore, MD-

DeSales University
-Center Valley, PA-



Book Drive Donation Types

Cedar Mills Community Library

- Popular new books. Anything on the current best sellers lists
- 2004 and later travel guides-domestic and foreign. Literary travel guides
- Software handbooks current 2004 and 2005 publications
- How-to legal books-i.e. landlord tenant laws, divorce, incorporating
- Business plans, setting up small businesses
- Children's books-Newbery and Caldecott award winners
- SAT, GRE, LSAT test preparation books

S.M.A.R.T

- Young children's books are the best to donate--those appropriate for kindergarten through the third grades.

Leadership Positions Available

Do you consider yourself a leader? If your answer is "yes," maybe you should consider running for one of the available student leadership positions that Sigma Tau Delta has to offer. Annually, there are three positions available for student members to apply for. These include Associate Student Representative, Student Representative and Student Advisor. These three students help to provide the student voice for the society, which is a very important job in our student-based organization. In order to run for either Student Rep. or Associate Student Rep., students must attend the

Regional Caucus during the annual convention. Applicants will have a brief amount of time to declare why they are right for the job and then chapters from their region vote based on what they have heard. The process for Student Advisor is slightly different in that applicants must apply before coming to convention, and once there they will be interviewed by various board members. If you are interested in applying for any one of these positions, please visit www.english.org, and follow the link for "Opportunities" to "Student Leadership."

Regional Common Reader Contests

The convention is clearly the highlight of the Sigma Tau Delta year, and we encourage everyone to go. You will be glad you did. For those of you, however, who cannot get out to Portland, we are this year organizing a new contest. Students in the Eastern Region not attending the convention are invited to submit works focused on the Common Reader, Mark Salzman's *True Notebooks*, for a region-wide contest. The submissions need to conform to the guidelines for convention submissions in the Common Reader category—works in any genre, of the appropriate length, with cover sheets attached, submitted in duplicate—and are due to the regent by February 1, 2006. Mail submissions to:

Robert E. Crafton
Department of English
314 Spotts World Cultures Building
Slippery Rock University
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

First-place winners are eligible for a \$100 prize; second- and third-place winners may also be awarded. Instructions for submissions and cover sheets are available at the society's web site, www.English.org.

Portland Book Drive...

Every year, Sigma Tau Delta members are given the wonderful opportunity to donate books for our annual book drive held during the national convention. This year, two locations have been selected as the recipients of our donated books: Cedar Mills Community Library and a program for children (kindergarten through third grade) called S.M.A.R.T. (Start Making A Reader Today). For more information on this program, visit www.getsmartoregon.org. To spice things up a bit, Sigma Tau Delta will be holding a friendly competition between chapters to see who can donate the most books in Portland. The winning chapter will have a donation made to the book drive organizations in their name. So start looking for books, and don't forget to bring them to convention!

Convention Speakers

~Ted Kooser~

U.S. Poet Laureate
Author of Pulitzer Prize-winning *Delights and Shadows*.

~Kim Addonizio~

"Confessional" and "post-feminist" writer
Author of *Little Beauties*

~Mark Salzman~

Author of the 2005-2006 common reader, *True Notebooks*.

~Katja Esson~

Accomplished filmmaker
Her documentary *Ferry Tales* was nominated for an Academy Award,

10th Writers' Club Conference

On November 4-5 Montgomery County Community College will hold its Tenth Writers' Club Conference in the Science Center Theater, 340 DeKalb Pike, Blue Bell, PA. This two-day event will feature an evening with writer Tim O'Brien, author of the award-winning novel, *The Things They Carried*. Best-selling novelist and author of *Midwives*, Chris Bohjalian is the featured speaker for Saturday's events. Aside from the great line-up of speakers, this event will

also include seven writing workshops, an editors and agents panel, an open mike/coffeehouse as well as individual appointments with agents. This event is open to the public and further information and registration details may be obtained by logging on to:

www.mc3.edu/sa/stact/clubs/writers/conference, calling the Office of Cultural Affairs at 215-641-6518, or by e-mailing writers@mc3.edu.

Awards and Scholarships

Looking for ways to finance your education? Apply for a Sigma Tau Delta scholarship! The national organization has tens of thousands of dollars available to students in the form of scholarships, awards, and internship opportunities.

For individual scholarships, Sigma Tau Delta has the $\Sigma\tau\Delta$ International Junior/Senior/and Graduate Scholarships available, as well as $\Sigma\tau\Delta$ Study Abroad Scholarships, the Regnery Scholarship and the P.C. Somerville Future Teacher Award.

Members can apply for Scholarly Paper Awards, as both an undergraduate and a graduate member; Best Individual Web Site Awards, and Regnery Publishing Internships that provide \$1500 for a summer internship or a semester long

internship that provides \$1000 each month.

In addition to the individual awards, entire chapters can take some money home as well. There is the Best Chapter Web Site Award and the Outstanding Literary Arts Journal Award. Nominate your sponsor for the Elaine W. Hughes Award for Outstanding Sponsor, which awards \$500. Outstanding Chapters can also win great awards. If you want startup funds for a grant, $\Sigma\tau\Delta$ can provide you with those as well; and finally, there are also Service Awards that award the winnings to a specified organization.

For more information, visit www.english.org and go to Opportunities on the main menu. Good luck!

Regional Theater Outing

For two months out of the year, the Mt. Hope Mansion (located on the grounds of the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire) transforms itself into a gathering place for some of the most brilliant literary minds in our history (portrayed by the wonderful Mt. Hope actors, of course). In November, Edgar Allen Poe, along with other "Masters of the Macabre" grace the mansion for Mt. Hope's theatre production of "Poe Evermore." And in December, the beautiful Victorian mansion becomes home to a Christmas celebration the way only Charles Dickens could create it, complete with Mr. Ebenezer Scrooge, The Cratchits and Mr. Dickens himself, in the production of "A Dickens of a Christmas." Sound like fun? We thought so! That's why we would like to organize a region-wide trip to one (or both) of these shows. We have worked out details with the folks at Mt. Hope for special group pricing rates, as well as the possibility for a private $\Sigma\tau\Delta$ showing. Before anything is set in stone (so to speak) we would like feedback from you! If your chapter is interested in attending one of these shows, please e-mail Lynzie Biggs at Lynzielue41@aol.com by October 15th, at the latest. And for more show information, please visit www.parenfaire.com and follow the link for "Theater in the Mansion."

If there are any issues or ideas that you feel should be addressed in future publications, please feel free to contact us. All comments, questions or suggestions should be addressed to Bob Crafton, Eastern Regent at robert.crafton@sru.edu, Lynzie Biggs, Eastern Student Representative at Lynzielue41@aol.com or Jessica Gill, Associate Student Representative at Gill4@tcnj.edu. Thank you.

Awards & Scholarships
Deadlines and Amounts

Junior, Senior and Graduate Scholarship
Due October 30
Awards up to \$2000

Regnery Scholarship
Due October 30
Awards up to \$2500

Sigma Tau Delta Study Abroad Scholarship
Due October 30 and March 30
Awards up to \$2000

Critical Journal Awards
Due October 30
Awards up to \$400

Outstanding Chapter Awards
Due October 30
Awards up to \$350

Outstanding Literary Arts Journal
Due October 30
Awards up to \$500

Chapter Website Awards
Due November 30
Awards up to \$200

Service Awards
Due May 30
Awards up to \$200

Outstanding Sponsor Awards
Due November 30

Future Teacher Awards
Due October 30
Awards up to \$1000

Scholarly Paper Awards
Due October 30
Awards up to \$150

Personal Website Awards
Due November 30
Awards up to \$200