

SIGMA TAU DELTA

The International English Honor Society



Eastern Regional Newsletter, Spring 2004

Greetings From Associate Student Representative and Eastern Regional Student Representative

Introducing the New Eastern SR:

Hello, everyone. My name is Autumn Brown and I am replacing John Sheldon as your Eastern SR. I am very grateful for this position and equally grateful to follow such an excellent ASR and SR. The following is my self-introduction, which can also be found on the EI) website.

Autumn Brown, am a secondary English education major at Slippery Rock University. This semester concludes my sophomore year and I am about to begin taking the bulk of my education classes.

Some of my key interests include religious studies, multiculturalism, urban and rural vs. suburban situations, and community service-learning. I feel service-learning helps me to achieve greater understanding of minority and majority concerns. I love to study a multitude of issues, but tend to be interested in the role of the "minority." I enjoy discovering how various people interact and why these groups or individuals may make the decisions that they do. Diversity is my passion. After graduation, I will enter urban education and begin to pursue a Master's degree in guidance counseling.

Currently, I am the Vice President of Slippery Rock's Eta Delta chapter. In most of my free time, I can be found at the writing center, where I also work. I hope in the future to establish new writing centers in various communities and to make service-learning a strong part of my classroom.

I wish you all a wonderful year. If anyone has any questions, comments, or updates, please feel free to e-mail me at <VividContemplation@yahoo.com>. If email is inconvenient for anyone, I will be happy to work out a better means of communication for these people. Thanks!

Introducing the New Eastern ASR:

As you all know, Jennifer Butler did an excellent job as associate student representative last year. However, Jennifer will not be starting graduate school until the fall and so there is a new ASR for the 2004-2005 term.

Please wish a warm welcome to Cynthia "Cindy" Gates. The following is Cindy's self-introduction, which can also be found at the Sigma Tau Delta website,

<www.english.org>.

-AB

My name is Cynthia Gates and I am a senior at Farleigh Dickinson University. I am an English Education major. I am enrolled in FDU's QUEST program, which allows me to get my MAT in Education through the five-year program. I am a transfer student from Sussex County Community College. When I transferred to FDU, my first semester was spent abroad at Wroxton College in Oxfordshire, England. It was by far the best four months of my entire life! (Never mind the fact that I am now an expert in Shakespeare and Charles Dickens' Nicholas Nickleby)

My favorite book is *The Stranger* by Albert Camus and my favorite poem is "I Started Early – Took My Dog" by Emily Dickinson. I love to write – it relaxes me and helps me clear my head. After graduation, I plan to teach high school for a while before moving up to the college level. I intend on getting my PhD and eventually plan on returning to England to live for a few years (if not forever). I am the president of the Alpha Kappa Theta Chapter (a relatively new chapter) at FDU. I look forward to working more with Sigma Tau Delta and serving as the Associate Student Representative for the Eastern Region.

-Cynthia Gate

From the Regent's Desk . . .

ask them to take a poem
and hold it up to the light
like a color slide . . .

from Billy Collins, "Introduction to Poetry"

For three days in late March, Daytona Beach, Florida, better known for NASCAR and biker culture, became a place of poetry, as English majors from all across the country converged for the annual meetings of Sigma Tau Delta. The conference featured 112 panels of critical papers, poetry, short fiction, and creative nonfiction, as well as presentations by Billy Collins, Sarah Vowell, and Scott Morris, who could not have been better. After the successes of Cincinnati, we worried about the distractions of Daytona. We needn't have. We are, after all, a bookish sort really, and the Daytona conference proved it. Now with Daytona done, we are already at work on Kansas City, site of the 2005 convention, and are even beginning to prepare for Portland, Oregon, in 2006.

The society, in general, has had a good year. Our budget has rebounded along with the stock market, which, among other things, has allowed us to initiate a new journal, *The Sigma Tau Delta Review*. *The Rectangle* will now be devoted to creative work, *The Review* to critical papers. Please encourage your students to submit their work to our journals. Additionally, the central office will see some changes as Jeannie Clegg, a fixture in the office for many years, will retire this summer. We are currently working to find a replacement. And, in general, membership seems to be up. In the Eastern Region at least, we have added a number of new chapters just in the last month.

I very much enjoyed, as always, the chance to meet many of you at this year's conference, and I look forward to seeing even more of you in Kansas City. Being a chapter sponsor, as I have said before, is easily the most gratifying part of my work as an English professor. The combination of scholarship and service, the company of people alive to language and literature, people who get excited about poetry—no torture or rubber hoses here—well, what could be better?

-Dr. Robert Crafton

"SIDEASTERNREGION" Yahoo Group

Do you wonder how to get in touch with all of the Eastern region? Would you care to chat with some fellow EI(s) from nearby states or across the shore? Would you like a surefire way to receive updates and send them instantaneously? If so, then you should sign up for our region's yahoo group. Just go to <<http://groups.yahoo.com>> and follow the links to "join a group." If you do not already have a yahoo user name, then you will be directed to create a free account for yourself. When you are directed to type the name of the group you wish to join, simply enter "stdeasternregion." Everything is all one word and lower case. If you have any problems, e-mail me. I will post key events on this website, so be sure to check it out!

EAPSU Undergraduate Conference

I was glad to see some familiar faces at Edinboro's EAPSU conference. Congratulations to everyone who presented and for those of you who did not attend, I hope you will consider next year's conference. Come to see if these conferences are for you. Next year's EAPSU Undergraduate conference will be at Kutztown University. For more information, please see <www.eapsu.org>.

Advertise Your Institution's Programs!

Are you looking for ways to get the news out about your graduate and summer school programs? Consider placing an ad in the Sigma Tau Delta convention program. Advertising in the program will reach a target audience of 500 accomplished undergraduate and graduate English majors, many of whom are actively looking to further their educations. Full and half-page ads are available. If you would like more information about advertising in the convention program, contact Robert E. Crafton, Eastern Regent, at robert.crafton@sru.edu.

Spotlight Chapter

Gamma Pi, Hartwick College, Oneonta, New York: 7th annual Poem and Cookie Day—Campus and community members gather to share poems and cookies. Usually, there is a good turnout. October Ghost and Grue! reading, where faculty and students share a scary story/poem/ballad by campfire, complete with cider and marshmallows. September Banned Books reading at campus bookstore.

Submit chapter updates and be the next in the spotlight!