



The Far West Outpost

Volume 3, Issue 2, Fall 2003



The Convention: A Pleasant Walk, A Pleasant Talk

Check out the location at <http://www.adamsmark.com/daytonabeach/>

This year's annual convention in Daytona Beach, Florida, is sure to be a blast! It will be held from March 24-28 at the beautiful Adam's Mark Daytona Beach Resort, located along Daytona's only traffic-free beach. As if the location isn't enticement enough to come, the speaker lineup surely is: Speakers will be Billy Collins, current U.S. Poet Laureate and author of Poetry 180, Nine Horses, and Sailing Alone Around the Room; Sarah Vowell, author of Partly Cloudy Patriot and Take the Cannoli; and Scott Morris, author of The Total View of

Taftly and Waiting for April. The convention will also include, as usual, student readings and panels. *Submissions must be postmarked by November 25, 2003*, so be sure to submit your work soon! Visit the Sigma Tau Delta website (www.english.org) for more information. Also, when you schedule your flight out to Florida, make sure you arrive in time for the first event of the convention on Wednesday evening, where readers will be sharing their works from *The Rectangle*.

Convention Book Drive: This year's annual convention book drive will benefit the Volusia Literacy Council, a group in the Daytona Beach area that works with adults to promote literacy. We will be collecting books for early reading levels, such as Little Golden Books. *Everyone should bring at least one children's book to donate.* As you pack for Florida, leave room for at least one book; then once you've made your donation, you will have helped a great cause—plus, you'll have freed up some space in your luggage for souvenirs!

Leadership Workshop at the March 2004 Convention: After the tremendous success of last year's inaugural leadership workshop, the Student Representatives and Student Advisors are planning another 1½ hour workshop for Thursday morning, March 25, at the convention. This year's theme—Listen, Learn, Lead—will be the hub of an interactive seminar where you can meet other students from your region and from all over the country to share ideas about chapter leadership, to develop your leadership skills, and to form friendships. This free workshop is open to everyone, so be sure to sign up when you register for the convention. Don't miss it!

Send us a note sometime!

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Scholarships, Awards, & Internships

For more information, check out <http://www.english.org/scholarships.shtml> and <http://www.english.org/awards.shtml>

One of the benefits of being in Sigma Tau Delta is that you are eligible for many scholarships and awards. Some of the application deadlines have passed, but the following are still open:

Scholarships (deadline Mar. 30, 2003):

- Study Abroad Scholarships (second round)

Awards (deadline Nov. 30, 2003):

- Elaine W. Hughes Outstanding Sponsor Awards
- Personal Web Site Awards
- Chapter Web Site Award

Internships (deadline Jan. 30, 2004):

- Regnery Publishing, Inc., Internships (for summer 2004)



New Sigma Tau Delta Item. New honor stoles are now available for purchase. They cost \$19 each and can be ordered from the website on the merchandise page. Order some for your commencement and other special ceremonies today!

Spotlight

We have a new Far Western ASR, Erin K. Smith from the Iota Xi Chapter at Chaminade University in Honolulu, Hawaii!

Aloha, from beautiful Honolulu, Hawaii! My name is Erin K. Smith, President of the Iota Xi Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta on the Chaminade campus. I am currently working towards a double major in both English literature and History, pursuing a baccalaureate degree that leads to a high school teaching position in Hawaii, so that I can contribute to the Hawaiian community that has given me the financial opportunities to pursue my dreams of becoming a teacher working to inspire students to reach for the stars and achieve their dreams! In joining Sigma Tau Delta, I have found that membership into such an august society has given me the opportunity to expand my horizons and meet with others of like interests in literature, the arts, and cultural events. I look forward to working with everyone this year!

If you would like to see your chapter's service project, fundraising event, or group activity featured in the next newsletter's Spotlight, please send a small write-up to kquevedo@scu.edu.

Send us a note sometime!

sbillings@scu.edu, kquevedo@scu.edu, poidragon@yahoo.com

Getting Connected

Bulletin Board. Check out the Sigma Tau Delta forum, where you can read and post messages about all things English. Go to www.english.org and click on **Bulletin Board** to view the forum and set up a free user account. Topics include everything from fundraising ideas and ways to entice new members, to grammatical questions and favorite authors. There's also a section for our Far Western Region specifically, which is a great place for our spread-out chapters to communicate, as well as for chapters to make an initial connection with those located nearby. So bookmark the message board and start getting connected!

E-News. Sign up now for the free Sigma Tau Delta monthly newsletter! Go to www.english.org and click on **eNews Subscription**. The password is blake5.

From the Regent:

I send you all warm wishes for a productive new academic year!

This past year, as our Spring newsletter available at

http://www.english.org/pdf/fw_spring03.pdf made abundantly

clear, our Far Western Region had many award winners and appearances at the March 2003 convention to celebrate. I hope that you've begun to plan fundraisers so that you can send representatives and readers to the March 2004 convention in Florida—it'd be wonderful to have a strong FW representation at the Atlantic beachfront Adam's Mark Hotel. This terrific opportunity for chapters to showcase their fine English majors has also significantly influenced those who attend: within chapter bonds are formed and deepened, within Region bonds are discovered, and across Regions interactions are particularly informative as individuals learn more about graduate schools or regional similarities and differences. Recent events have shown the importance of connecting to and learning from people from other areas—and this notion holds equally true for literary scholars, creative writers, and present or future instructors of English.

So I look forward to seeing many of you, I hope, in Daytona Beach—to hearing many of your names and chapters announced as winners of the Society's Awards and Scholarships and Writing Awards at the convention banquet, to connecting with you face to face as we see each other at or between sessions. Until then, I hope you all enjoy "a pleasant walk, a pleasant talk" through the end of calendar year 2003 and the beginning of calendar year 2004.



Send us a note sometime!

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From the keyboard of the Student Representative:

I have really been enjoying my time as your Student Representative! It was wonderful to get to meet so many of you at the Cincinnati convention, and I'm looking forward to seeing you in Daytona Beach this March. I can personally guarantee that the trip will be worth the time and expense of getting there from our Region—I was blown away by the location when I attended the Fall Board Meeting there.

Representing our Region at the board meetings is just one part of my job as your Student Rep. If this position piques your interest, you're in luck: My term will be ending at the 2004 convention, so we will need to elect a new Student Rep. I cannot encourage you enough to apply for this position! You have a unique opportunity to work with members from all over the Far Western Region and all over the country; you get to learn about how the organization functions "behind the scenes"; you get to help plan events for the convention; and more. If you're interested, fill out and submit the application form, available on the website under the Student Positions section, and send me an e-mail at kquevedo@scu.edu. We will also be electing an Associate Student Representative, so feel free to e-mail Erin at poidragon@yahoo.com with any questions as well.

Thank you so much for supporting Sigma Tau Delta!
—*Katherine*

**Don't Forget: Annual Convention
Daytona Beach, Florida
24–28 March 2004**

A view from the Adam's Mark Daytona Beach Resort:



Hope to see you there!

Send us a note sometime!
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