

The Far West Outpost

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Annual convention By Kim Lock

As most of you already know, the 2006 National Convention will be held in Portland, Oregon, March 29 to April 2. As the associate student representative for the Far West Region I encourage you to attend and/or present at the convention. Last year in Kansas City, the Far West Region was represented by just 36 members—a small percentage of the 600 or so attendees. Because the convention will be held in our region I think it important that we make a powerful showing and win a greater share of the awards than we did in Kansas City—most of the awards went to members from the South and the East. Let's be sure to keep some of the awards here in the Far West Region! I know we have some great writers in our chapters so get your papers, your poems, and your stories ready and submit them! Remember, the convention theme is "Green" and if you can weave that theme into your work that would be awesome!

The National Convention is a chance to share your writing with your peers, and socialize with others who are as passionate about writing as you are. It is also a chance to be inspired by the very talented guest speakers. The convention's speakers will include:

♦**Ted Kooser**, reappointed as U.S. Poet Laureate in the spring, and is the keynote speaker. Kooser has authored 17 books, including the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Delights and Shadows*.

♦**Katja Esson** is a talented filmmaker whose documentary *Ferry Tales* was nominated for an Academy Award. She will display samples of her work at the convention.

♦**Kim Addonizio's** works are often described "post-feminist." Her latest novel, *Little Beauties*, is scheduled for publication in September, 2005.

♦**Mark Salzman** is the author of three novels and three non-fiction books, including the 2005-2006 Common Reader, *True Notebooks*.

So besides all that great stuff, and the fact that Portland is a fantastic city, you will have the chance to meet the Far West Regent Matthew Schneider; our Student Representative, Jennifer Ouellette, and Kim Lock—that's me—your Associate Student Representative. Wow! I can hear you saying! Ok, we might not be as exciting as the guest speakers, but we can discuss any issues regarding your chapters and charm you with our dynamic personalities.

Submissions to the convention must be postmarked by November 25, 2005. Check the Sigma Tau Delta national website for further details: www.english.org. I look forward to seeing you in Portland!

Book Drive By Daniel Hardy & Traci Thomas-Card SMART Choices for Giving

As members of Sigma Tau Delta, we have a wonderful opportunity to help those in need through our annual book drives. At the 2006 National Convention in Portland, OR, members of Sigma Tau Delta will be able to contribute books to two worthy organizations: S.M.A.R.T. and the Cedar Mills Community Library.

S.M.A.R.T (Start Making A Reader Today) is a literacy program that brings adults and children (kindergarten through third grade) together to foster reading skills, and to transform children's futures through reading. Teachers involved in the program identify students most in need of extra attention; once in the S.M.A.R.T. program, the student reads twice a week with two committed adult volunteers for the remainder of the school year. Every month, S.M.A.R.T. provides two free books for each child to take home and keep; sometimes these are the only books in the child's house. To best help the S.M.A.R.T. program, young children's books are the best to donate--those appropriate for kindergarten through the third grades. If you'd like further information about the program, feel free to visit their

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**"Green, how
much I want you
green.
Green wind.
Green branches.
The ship upon the
sea
and the horse in
the mountain."**
Federico Garcia Lorca
Somnambule Ballad

homepage at www.getsmartoregon.org.

The Cedar Mills Community Library is primarily supported through membership donations, 2nd Edition Retail Shop, and various fundraisers. Last year they added more than 5,000 books to their collection, and sold another 10,000 or so in their used book sale.

Despite their need for books, the library has a small staff and limited space. They have asked that Sigma Tau Delta restrict our donation to 150 books. The library has requested:

- Popular new books (anything on the best seller list)
- 2004 and later travel guides (both domestic and foreign)
- Current Software Handbooks (2004 and 2005 editions)
- How-to legal books (I.e. landlord tenant laws, divorce, incorporating)
- Business Plans (books about setting up small businesses)
- Children's books (especially Newbery and Caldecott award winners)
- SAT, GRE, and LSAT test preparation books

As an added incentive, the chapter that donates the most books to either organization will have a monetary donation given to S.M.A.R.T or the Cedar Mills Community Library in their name.

It is never too early to start looking for books to bring to the convention. Thrift sales, used book sales, attics, and closets are all good places to start looking. Let's make this book drive the best yet, and show our support for the children and communities that need our help!

Scholarships By Kim Lock

The deadline for most Sigma Tau Delta scholarships and awards is October 30, 2005!

Waste no time in sending in your nominations for these valuable awards. Don't think for one minute that "*oh, none of us will ever win one*", because a member of my chapter won the Study Abroad Scholarship two years ago and she had a wonderful time in Egypt! Details about the scholarships and tips on how to write a great application can be found at www.english.org.

Student leadership By Jennifer Ouellette

There are some great leadership opportunities awaiting those who are willing. You can serve the organization, gaining experience for your future career, padding your resume, and having loads of fun while you're at it. Available positions include: Student Representative, Associate Student Representative, and Student Advisor. The applications for these positions, as well as any other related materials are due by Feb. 21st, 2005. For descriptions of each position, go to: <http://www.english.org/students.shtml>.

Chapter info/update

Boise State University

We are excited to have initiated twenty new members into our chapter this year. Our initiation ceremony was held in beautiful, warm weather at one of the many lovely parks that line the Boise River. We've wasted no time in getting our new members to help with fundraisers. At a yard sale recently, we made over \$600 despite the intermittent drizzle and the fact that the Idaho Women's Fitness Celebration occurred on the same day—20,000 women running and walking 5km instead of stopping by our yard sale! We sold homemade baked items, too, and they were quickly snapped up by hungry punters. Next year, we will be sure to bake a lot more goodies! We are looking into an ink-cartridge and cell-phone recycling program as another way to raise funds—here's the website if you are interested: www.usrecycleinc.com

As one of our service projects, we will run a raffle at a "Wordstorm" benefit to raise money for the victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, as well as the victims of the Asian tsunami. The benefit will include readings by famous authors, a poetry slam, and music by local bands.

"Literature is language charged with meaning."

"Literature is news that stays news."

Ezra Pound
ABC of Reading



"All the world 's a stage, and all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances; And one man in his time plays many parts."

Shakespeare
As You Like It

For the past couple of years around Thanksgiving, some members (theatre nuts) have made the long trip from Boise to Seattle to attend three or four plays (also to shop, eat great food, and shop some more!); however, this year the play selection in Seattle leaves a lot to be desired. Our treasurer Cherrie Moore, who is a genuine theatre nut and who directs plays in her home town of Emmett, is finding out which plays are running the week before the Annual Convention in Portland so we can kill two birds with one stone.

Southern Utah looks like it will be very productive with social activities and preparations for convention: fundraising, workshops, faculty read-throughs, and presentation practices.

BYU Hawaii will hold a Playwright's Festival in Winter of 2006, as well as a Poetry Recitation Competition.

Azuza Pacific will put out a monthly departmental newsletter, *The Muse*, to aid communication within their department. They will also co-sponsor a Freshman Writing Seminar Competition, and volunteer to read aloud at a local children's bookstore.

Chapman University will sponsor a lecture in October by British Romanticist Dr. Marilyn Gaull, Professor of English at New York University. Her title for the lecture is "Beasts in the Boudoir", where she examines how contemporary children's literature emerged in the late 18th and 19th centuries. Chapman has also asked Dr Gaull to join them for their Fall Induction Dinner, where she will address the new inductees and active members. For more information on Dr. Gaull's lecture please contact Alpha Zeta Iota faculty sponsor Matthew Schneider (schneide@chapman.edu) or their chapter president Hillary Branman (hrbranman@yahoo.com).

Utah State University

This new school year has brought many new ideas to Sigma Tau Delta at USU. We have reorganized the presidency and organized ourselves to better handle the growing number of members we are getting. We are participating more in our school's events and in helping our community. Soon we will take part in the school's Homecoming Week full of activities, including street painting and the parade. We also had a great turnout for our opening social where we introduced many to our society and let them know the benefits of Sigma Tau Delta and our upcoming events. We are busy planning our annual Poe in the Dark night where faculty members are invited to tell and act out scary stories and talk about the history of Halloween. This evening is open to the public and we are collecting cans of food for a service project. We have a lot of other fun things planned and aim to participate in Sigma Tau Delta even more!

Upcoming deadlines

You may check all deadlines on the Sigma Tau Delta website, but here's a friendly reminder-list of deadlines. All applications are available online at the Sigma Tau Delta website.

Due October 30th, 2005:

- Critical Journal Award
- Delta Award
- Future Teachers Award
- Graduate Scholarship
- Junior Scholarship
- Literary Arts Journal Award
- Outstanding Chapter Award
- Regnery Scholarship
- Scholarly Paper Award

Senior Scholarship

- Study Abroad Scholarship

“ 'Tis the good reader that makes the good book; ... in every book he finds passages which seem confidences or asides hidden from all else and unmistakably meant for his ear.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson
Society and Solitude



<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Grant Applications• Regnery Internship Applications <p>Due November 30th, 2005:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outstanding Sponsor Award Nominations• Web Award Applications <p>Due January 30th, 2006:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regnery Internship Applications <p>Due March 30th, 2006:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Study Abroad Scholarship <p>Due May 30th, 2006:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regnery Internship Applications <p>Due September 30th, 2006:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Service Award Applications	<p>“Between my finger and my thumb The squat pen rests I’ll dig with it.” Seamus Heany <i>Digging</i></p>
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