



# The Far West Outpost

## Necessary Contradictions

A look at the 2008 Convention



This year's International Convention is set in Louisville Kentucky. The theme, "Necessary Contradictions," is borrowed from Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself," invites all to look for the irony, absurdity, inconsistent unions, and juxtapositions that occur. It is about the search in between things. The space between the used book store and taco stand. It is the space where Hemmingway and Pulinck come together.

It is that little cubbyhole in your mind that connects that fuzzy orange scarf in the back of your closet to a spotless Chester Cheeto. It is the place in the back of your mind that you allow only yourself to visit. It is the place where everything comes together and crashes, creating a new hodge-podge of ideas. These are "Necessary Contradictions" are all around us, they are where the interesting parts in life come from. This convention is a chance to explore every nook and cranny. Pull out your long-johns and Bermuda print shirts, and lets get going to Kentucky.

Also, remember to take a look at this year's featured writers: Naomi Shihab Nye, Suzan-Lori Parks, Kim Edwards.

Make sure to grab a copy of this year's common reader *Secrets of the Fire King*, by Kim Edwards.

### Song of Myself

I CELEBRATE myself and sing myself;  
And what I assume you shall assume;  
For every atom belonging to me, as good belongs  
to you.

I loaf and invite my Soul;  
I lean and loaf at my ease, observing a spear of  
summer grass.

Houses and rooms are full of perfumes--the  
shelves are crowded with perfumes;  
I breathe the fragrance myself, and know it and  
like it;  
The distillation would intoxicate me also, but I  
shall not let it.

The atmosphere is not a perfume--it has no taste of  
the distillation--it is odorless;  
It is for my mouth forever--I am in love with it;  
I will go to the bank by the wood, and become  
undisguised and naked;  
I am mad for it to be in contact with me.

Walt Whitman

*And by the way, everything in life is writable about if you have the  
outgoing guts to do it, and the imagination to improvise. The worst enemy to  
creativity is self-doubt.*

*Sylvia Plath*



### *Greetings from the SR, Brittni Traynor*

Hello all! I hope that this semester is treating everyone well. Things here are in full swing, with deadlines falling as quickly as the leaves on the cedar trees outside. I hope everyone is being able to take a breath after midterms, maybe finally get catch up on the sleep that you've missed out on. It seems that way for me, for the first time in the entire semester I am able to read a book for leisure, instead of for a class. Granted it was *The Pokey Little Puppy*, but it has to count for something right? I am looking forward to the winter break and the chance to spend hours in bookstores and reading for the sake of reading.

I am also searching through my own back stock of work, in hopes of finding something to present at this year's convention. My chapter is holding a workshop next week. I pray I have something presentable by then. I hope you all take the opportunity to submit. Louisville is a beautiful city, and I can't wait to go back. Everyone has been busily preparing for the upcoming convention; there are lots of exciting new things. Remember to submit! If any of you have concerns or questions about the submission process, or your submissions in general, feel free to contact me, missbritt125@gmail.com.

I wish you all good luck with the rest of your semesters and with the submitting of papers! —Brittini Traynor



### *Stay Connected*

Are you feeling a little lost in the world of Sigma Tau Delta? Check out the Far Western Region's Facebook account. It is a way for everyone in the region to stay connected, to chat about topics, exchange ideas, network, and just have fun. If you would like to join, search "Sigma Tau Delta Far Western Region" or enter the following link into your web browser. Add us today!

<http://suu.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5275501341>

### *Need A Link?*

Curious about Sigma Tau Delta? Here are some helpful links:

<http://www.english.org/scholarships.shtml> – Sigma Tau Delta awards hundreds of dollars to students in scholarships every year. You are eligible, for guidelines and submission dates, (These have been pushed back to November 9!) please see the link above.

[http://www.english.org/chap\\_updates.shtml](http://www.english.org/chap_updates.shtml) – If you need to make any changes to your chapters, this is the link for you.



<http://www.english.org/louisville/papers.html> – The conference is just around the corner. The deadline for the call for papers is November 14. We encourage everyone to submit. Please check out the guidelines and submit your works.

<http://www.english.org/students.shtml> – Interested in the opportunities that can be found in Sigma Tau Delta, check out this link for information on student positions.



## Searching for more from ΣΤΔ?

### Here are some more opportunities

If you are not graduating and would like to be involved in Sigma Tau at a deeper level be sure to look into positions opening up in the Spring. With graduation and a new school year come new positions. Elections for Student Representatives, and Associate Student Representatives will be held at the convention. Applications are now being accepted for Student Advisor. These positions are great ways to get involved, learn what goes on behind the scenes, and to create change. If you are interested check out the Sigma Tau Delta website and be sure to attend the Regional Caucus at the convention in 2008.



If you are graduating and would still like to be involved in STD, check out the newly formed Alumni Epsilon chapter. Once you have joined this chapter you will be able to be involved in every aspect that you were as an undergrad student, convention attendance, paper and panel presentation, as well as leadership opportunities. Last year's SR was involved in creating a new position for the Alumni members. It is similar to the Student Representative position. If you are interested check it out at: <http://www.english.org/alumni.shtml>

*You must stay drunk on writing  
so reality cannot destroy  
you. Ray Bradbury*

## Chapter Reports - Fall 2007

### Report from Alpha Eta Nu, chapter at Southern Utah University

Thus far in the semester, our chapter has contacted and invited all the newly eligible students on campus. We will be having our induction ceremony this coming Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

We have had two activities thus far. Our Opening Social was an "Ethnic Food Night" in which participants prepared an ethnic dish of some kind and brought literature to match. We had a variety of dishes, from Thai, to pizza, to blueberry muffins, with associated literatures (Buddhist teachings, Italian poems, and an email J). Our second activity was done with collaboration from the community. We arranged and held a banned books reading that was well attended. Each reader told why their chosen book had been banned and why they enjoyed it anyway. They then read a 3-5 minute excerpt as an illustration.



As the semester moves on, we hope to have at least one activity a month. We are also encouraging members to submit to the Sigma Tau Delta Conference and will be holding workshops to help polish students' essays/works. We are also working on a grammar guide to sell as a fundraiser, and will be putting on other fundraisers as well.

—Whitnee Sorenson



## Chapter Reports - Spring 2007 continued...

### Report from Alpha Epsilon Tau, chapter at Azusa Pacific University (Azusa, California)

Last year, Alpha Epsilon Tau – the Sigma Tau Delta chapter at Azusa Pacific University hosted eighteen events. Especially worthy of note were:

Theatre nights – attending APU productions of *Pride and Prejudice*, *Tea in a China Cup* and *Death of a Salesman*, with discussions afterwards often led by a knowledgeable professor, and



Induction Ceremony – we inducted more than 30 new members. Our theme was “Living in Color,” and the evening included a live jazz band, a superb keynote speech by professor Michael Bruner, a couple of poetic and short fictional readings, and awards presented to honor our faculty sponsor, Dr. Emily Griesinger, and our outstanding member, Kate Rice.

This year’s officers have already scheduled an average of two events per month, including a few informal gatherings, another theatre night (we’ll be attending APU’s production of *Antigone*) and our main fundraiser: participation in the Azusa Pacific Club Fair. By setting up a table and staffing it with our officers, we ensured our group approximately \$150 in funding and a significant amount of publicity. Also in the works for this year is Oxford Night, with cooperation from our Study Abroad Office: a tremendous resource for those headed to England for Hilary Term of 2008.

— Hannah Thomas

### Report from Alpha Zeta Kappa, chapter at Westmont College (Santa Barbara, California)



This year continues to be a full one for Westmont’s chapter of Sigma Tau Delta. Last semester, we inducted seventeen new members. More recently, we opened this new school year with a reading marathon of *Jane Eyre*, in which several members of our chapter participated. The event was in conjunction with our Theatre Department’s upcoming production of *Polly Teale’s* adaptation of Charlotte Brönte’s famous novel. Various additional events are in the works for this year, among them the annual English Department chapel, a school-wide book swap, and an evening of reading Edgar Allen Poe by candlelight.

#### WELCOME TO NEW AND REACTIVATED CHAPTERS:

##### Portland State University



##### University of San Francisco





## Get Lucky in Kentucky Book Drive 2008

Every year Sigma Tau Delta tries to give back to the community that holds the annual conference. This year we have chosen Neighborhood House, a community-based organization. Neighborhood House provides individuals within the Portland district of Louisville a chance to improve life. The program is open to people of all ages, with a focus on the enrichment of education. There are a few changes this year to the book drive, a ton more publication and there is also talk of a weblink for chapters to report what books they have collected, this way we will be able to collect a variety of books. The book drive is a great way to get support from your local chapters and communities. We really encourage everyone to donate, and not just books. The organization is also looking for other articles such as, art supplies, sporting equipment, and board games. For a complete list of needed items please check out their website, click on the “How Can I Help?” link. It would be great to overwhelm the Neighborhood House with resources, so please remember this as you and your chapters begin planning your trips. <http://www.nhky.org/index.html>



If you have links to favorite websites that have to do with literature, books, poetry, writing (you know, all the stuff Sigma Tau Deltans love) send us a link, or let us know about it on Facebook.

**Remember the deadline for many of the Sigma Tau Delta scholarships and awards has been extended to November 9, 2007**

**Be sure to visit [www.english.org](http://www.english.org) for more information and to download application forms!!!**



## What to do in Kentucky?

Here are a few can't miss sites:

- **21C Hotel:** This hotel/ museum is a must see. The entire hotel is an art museum. The public is welcome to come and walk through the lobby areas, be sure to check out the falling poem wall and bathrooms. Hungry? Try the onsite restaurant, Proof on Main.
- **The Louisville Slugger Museum:** A Louisville classic!
- **Muhammad Ali Center:** For international education and culture.
- **4<sup>th</sup> Street Live!:** There is always something happening down on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Try one of the many restaurants, including Louisville's Hard Rock Café. Or spend a few hours in the bookstore. There are also live stages, bars, and a food court. If you are looking for a little night life, this is your place.
- **Waterfront Park**
- **Kentucky Center for the Arts**
- **And much more**—look for a display at the convention for more information.

## Far Western Region officers:

### Regent:

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