



The Far West Outpost

Sigma Tau Delta



International English Honor Society
Far West Region Web Site & Newsletter

We in the Far West Region have good reason for **boasting**, eh?

Eight chapters from four of our eight states sent members to speak at the 2001 International Convention in [Corpus Christi, Texas](#). During the 88 conference sessions of student work, there were 59 student presenters from our Region. Many of those 59 students read twice, in different sessions, showcasing their talents in more than one genre.



[Congratulations on a job well done!](#)

The Chapters

- ❖ **The University of Alaska, Fairbanks**, sent 12 students to read, with at least one UAF representative in the four genres at the convention (personal essay, analytical essay, short fiction, poetry).
- ❖ Not far behind, **California State Polytechnic University at Pomona** was represented by 10 of its chapter members; its students also presented in numerous genres!
- ❖ **The University of Idaho** made a solid showing with 7 of its representatives reading analytical essays.
- ❖ The fast-growing chapter from Utah, **Brigham Young University**, sent 6 excellent representatives to read, and others just to attend!
- ❖ **Chapman University in California** sent six of its members to read analytical essays, original poetry, and original short fiction.
- ❖ Also from California, **Santa Clara University** happily sent 4 members of its chapter to read both analytical essays and original poetry.
- ❖ A fourth California chapter, **Azusa Pacific University**, was pleased to see 3 of its members read analytical essays at the convention.
- ❖ And the **University of California, Los Angeles**, was wonderfully represented by the outgoing Student Advisor, Christopher Flynn, who participated in multiple panels.

From the pen (rather, the keyboard) of the Student Rep:
As the new Student Rep, I am very excited to be helping with Sigma Tau Delta for these next two years! As an English undergraduate at Brigham Young University, I look forward to many aspects of the English major.
I am willing to help with any questions pertaining to Sigma Tau Delta, so please feel free to email. **Becky Sorenson, beckybyu@yahoo.com**

The Awards

Numerous awards went throughout various chapters of Sigma Tau Delta's Far West Region.

- **The Outstanding Chapter Award** went to *California State Polytechnic University*, whose sponsors Dr. Sharon Hilles and Anne B. Simpson must be quite proud.
- Meanwhile, *Azusa Pacific University* nominated their chapter sponsor, James Hedges, for the Outstanding Sponsor award: he was named as winner of the **Regional Outstanding Sponsor Award**.
- Those from the *University of Idaho* heard their names several times: the chapter received first place in the Chapter Web Site competition (check it out at www.ets.uidaho.edu/sigmataudelta) and one of its members (Shawn Rider) received second place in **the Individual Web Site** competition (you can find it at www.wdog.com/rider/). Further, Melissa Cowley received a **Graduate Scholarship**.
- Jennifer King from *Brigham Young University (BYU)* was a runner-up for a **Graduate Student Scholarship**; John Cutler also from BYU was a runner-up for a **Junior Scholarship**. Other scholarship winners from BYU were Emron Esplin, who was the overall winner of a **Senior Scholarship**, and Rosalyn Collings, the co-winner of the **Regnery Scholarship**—the Society's highest academic award!. Brian Roberts, again from BYU, was the overall winner of the **President's Best of Convention Award for Original Poetry**.

The Convention

(What you missed if you didn't make it)

Poet **Benjamin Saenez** spoke about the poetry writing process and read some original work. The keynote speaker, **Ernest Gaines**, read excerpts from his incredible novel, A Lesson Before Dying, which is about a young man on death row. Also, **Dana Sachs**, author of The House on Dream Street, a memoir of her experience living in Vietnam, gave advice for the hopeful writers among us. First, make sure you hold onto great dreams. Second, find something you are passionate about and write about it. Finally, focus on enjoying writing and not on getting published. Ultimately, you will always come back to the writing. Hope you enjoyed the wonderful week in Texas as much as the rest of us!

The Board [of Directors]

As a region, we will continue to be well represented on the Board of Sigma Tau Delta.

✿ First, though, we must bid good-bye to **Christopher Flynn** of the *University of California at Los Angeles*. He has been a thoughtful, conscientious representative for students at large. His presence on the Sigma Tau Delta Board will be missed, but his term as Student Advisor has come to an end.

✿ We must bid a second good-bye to **Alexis Pavenick** from *California Polytechnic University at Pomona*, another marvelous Board member, whose term as Student Representative for the Far West Region is up—just in time for her to concentrate fully on her graduate studies! Alexis has always been a cheerful representative for the Far West, trying continuously to have vegetarians' voices heard!

✿ We will, however, still have a Far West student as one of the Student Advisors. Congratulations to **Hillary Ann Cable** from *California Polytechnic University at Pomona*, who was appointed to a two-year term as the junior Student Advisor after being interviewed by the Executive Board at the March convention. Only two Student Advisors, out of the entire student membership, are appointed to the national Board, and provide the student voice at this level of leadership, so kudos to Hillary!

✿ Congratulations also to **Becky Sorenson** from *Brigham Young University*, the new Far West Region Student Representative, who will also serve a two-year term.



Becky Sorenson, Simone Billings, and Alexis Pavenick

Happy Spring from the Far West Regent

And now what? As we busy ourselves with new Spring quarters for some and with continuing Spring semesters for others, we may be initiating new members—I hope so! Let's keep our chapters active and vital with **new members** and new ideas for activities. Why not also reach out to a neighboring university or college without a chapter and invite some faculty or students to one of your activities? You could **help another chapter get started**—and then have a chapter to sponsor joint activities with, such as poetry slams or service projects!

Next Year

Don't fret if you missed the Convention! You have next year's convention to look forward to—and it'll be right in our region! **The Grove Hotel in Boise, Idaho** is the spot on **March 14-17, 2002**. The theme is "Challenging Frontiers" (which sounds almost as if it could be a nickname for some of our states, eh?). Helen Lojek of Boise State University in Boise, ID, will be the convention chair—be sure to look for the [call for papers](#) come next Fall!

Here are some things to see next year:

- ☀ Nature Walks through the Idaho Botanical Garden
- ☀ Walk along the Boise River Greenbelt nature trail
- ☀ Fish along the river
- ☀ Go to Zoo Boise

If you are truly ambitious,

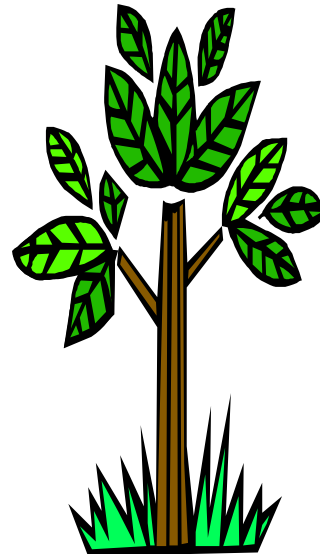
- ☀ Lucky Peak Rock Climbing is just outside of Boise on the Foothills.

If nature isn't tempting, you'll find a plethora of museums in Boise, including:

- ☀ The Boise Art Museum
- ☀ Black history museum
- ☀ Military Museum
- ☀ The historic State Capital

Also, tour historic Boise either

- ☀ On foot
- ☀ In an open passenger train



So as AY 2000-2001 comes to an end, we'd like to wish everyone a good end to this academic year and hope that everyone has productive and restful summers to look forward to. Please let us know if we can be of any help to you.

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