



# The Far West Outpost

Volume 3. Issue 1. Spring 2003



## The Convention

The Annual Convention in Cincinnati was a blast! Held from March 20-23 in the Hyatt Regency, the convention featured such exciting events as readings by Robert Hass, Bernard Cooper, and Kyoko Mori. As always, students were able to showcase their writing and to share their experiences by presenting papers and participating on panels. Also, the first annual Leadership Workshop was a definite hit, giving students from various chapters an opportunity to share ideas for activities and service projects with one another. And who could forget the Bad Poetry and Dry T-Shirt contests? Clearly the event was a fun and memorable one!

**Far Western Appearances at the March 2003 Convention:** At the Cincinnati convention 60 names from the Far West region were listed on the program—as reading critical essays, personal essays, poetry, and fiction and serving as panelists. This number does count some repeats, but it doesn't include those students and faculty serving as Moderators or Chairs of sessions. One panel was proposed by and comprised of people within our region, some from Southern Utah University.

We saw representatives in Cincinnati from Hawaii—Chaminade University of Honolulu—whom we'd like especially to acknowledge since it was the first time they'd come to a convention that we can recall. And of course a shout-out has to go to the always exuberant University of Alaska in Alaska, who once again traveled down from the cold Arctic to warmer climes. We had almost all our states represented—in addition to Hawaii and Alaska, Washington by Washington State University; Idaho by the University of Idaho and Boise State; Utah by Southern Utah University and Brigham Young University; and California by California State Polytechnic University, California Lutheran University, Azusa Pacific University, and Santa Clara University. Apparently Nevada chose to be represented by our Community College friends who were at this convention from the Community College of Southern Nevada. Now if we could only have had someone from an Oregon chapter we would have had representatives from all our states!

Send us a note sometime!

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# Scholarships, Awards, & Internships

For more information, check out [www.english.org](http://www.english.org).

**Awards:** People from the Far West not only showed up to the convention but won numerous awards that were announced there as well!

Kudos to the following chapter for the following honor:

- **Zeta Upsilon chapter at Boise State University** for receiving one of the Outstanding Chapter awards (\$350).

Kudos to the following individuals for the following honors:

- **Sarah Marie Thompson** of the **Eta Chi** chapter at **The University of Idaho** received a \$2000 Graduate Scholarship;
- **Joan E. Hill** of the **Rho Xi** chapter at **California State Polytechnic University** received a \$2500 Regnery Scholarship;
- **Brian R. Roberts** of the **Alpha Eta Iota** chapter at **Brigham Young University UT**—a familiar name to those who remember his awards last year—received \$500 as the Regnery runner-up and was awarded \$150 for a Scholarly Paper he presented at a non-Sigma Tau Delta conference;
- **Amy Dawn Glauser** also of **Alpha Eta Iota** chapter at **Brigham Young University UT** both received a \$2000 Senior Scholarship and earned herself \$75 for placing First in the judging of essays on the convention theme, the essays that had to accompany scholarship applications;
- **Tiffany K. Boddie** of **Zeta Upsilon** chapter at **Boise State University** not only received a \$2000 Study Abroad Scholarship but also earned \$75 for placing third in the judging of the best essays on the convention theme, the essays that had to accompany scholarship applications;
- **Katherine Quevedo** of **Phi Phi** chapter at **Santa Clara University** received one of the two Honorable Mentions in the Critical Essay category of papers presented at the Cincinnati convention;
- **Adam Lowry** of **Phi Phi** chapter at **Santa Clara University** received 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Critical Essay category of papers presented at the Cincinnati convention—and there were 162 papers in this category!

Congratulations to all you wonderful individuals—and those of you thinking that one person or one school seems to be garnering all the awards, consider applying for one of these scholarships or awards or submitting your work for next year's convention in Daytona Beach, Florida!

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## Spotlight

*Some chapters have wondered what they might do specifically as the service component of their chapters' activities. Our Far Western ASR has provided an explanation of her chapter's service project:*

If you attended this year's conference, you more than likely saw people carrying cards with hand-painted leaves adhered to the front, or maybe even purchased a few yourselves. Our Iota Xi chapter at Chaminade University of Honolulu has been selling these cards for our service project for a few years now. All of the proceeds from these beautiful cards go to the Premananda (Love and Joy) Orphanage Centre in Ongole, India. Currently there are 75 boys and girls, ages 4-14, in the orphanage, co-founded by our Chapter Advisor, Jon James. Most of the funding for this orphanage came from the sale of thousands of these unique Indian cards. The money raised, of late, has been earmarked to pay for the teachers and supplies needed to teach the children English—the commercial language of India. What project could be more fitting for our chapters?

At the convention several people approached me wondering how their chapter could go about participating in this project. We would, of course, love to extend the opportunity to help these lovely children in dire need to all chapters of Sigma Tau Delta. The cards feature pipal leaves hand-painted in vivid colors, ranging from Christmas and Easter themes to simple floral arrangements. If your chapter is interested in selling the cards, or even if you would just like to purchase a few yourself, please contact me at [tjfaye30@hotmail.com](mailto:tjfaye30@hotmail.com), or Professor Jon James at [jjames@chaminade.edu](mailto:jjames@chaminade.edu) or (808) 739-4683.

*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](mailto:kquevedo@scu.edu).*

## Getting Connected

**Networking among Far Western Chapters.** At last year's convention some individuals asked about establishing a network of some sort among chapters. At this year's convention some individuals wondered about a Regional, the sort of inter-state meeting some other Regions have. We're so far flung, we acknowledge, it's often difficult to conceive of getting from Hawaii to Alaska or from Southern California to Northern California. It's enough for some of us to get to the annual national convention.

**New Chapter.** We would like to welcome the newest members of our region: **Alpha Lambda Kappa** chapter of **Northwest College** in Kirkland, Washington!

But each chapter can perhaps do some sort of outreach—to a university geographically close that has no chapter to let that department of English know about the benefits of belonging to Sigma Tau that you've experienced, to a university that some of your friends attend but that has no chapter to encourage them to start a chapter, to a nearby university that does have a chapter of Sigma Tau

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Delta. We all know that personal contact can make a huge difference. 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!

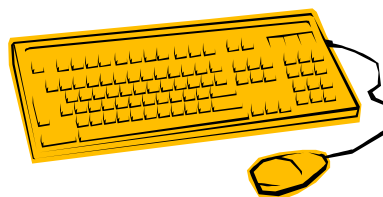
Or, as we busy ourselves with new Spring quarters for some and with continuing Spring semesters for others, we may be initiating new members—we hope so! Let's keep our chapters active and vital with new members and new ideas for activities. The web page for our region—[http://www.english.org/reg\\_farwest.shtml](http://www.english.org/reg_farwest.shtml)—lists the contact people at each of the schools; just scroll over your state and click on it to see the chapters' names pop up. Maybe a few geographically close chapters can begin to invite one another to events the chapters are holding; maybe enough interest will build up to do a "mini-regional" conference of a day or two. If any chapters are interested in doing that sort of "mini-regional" and wish assistance, be sure to contact the Far West Regent, the Far West Student Representative, and the Far West Associate Student Representative. We'd love to help out any way we can. Just remember there are certain guidelines before calling such a get-together a Regional, which should be scheduled for the Fall term; these guidelines are available at <http://www.english.org/pdf/appendix2.pdf>.

## From the Regent:

The March 2003 convention had at times a surreal feel to it: everyone was keenly aware that the Coalition Forces had just begun to bomb Iraq, yet students and faculty alike were anticipating the sessions they would speak at or they would attend, and some were periodically checking a television screen for updates on scores of March madness. At once we were political, intellectual, and recreational beings interacting and intersecting with each other at the extremely hospitable Hyatt Regency in Cincinnati OH.

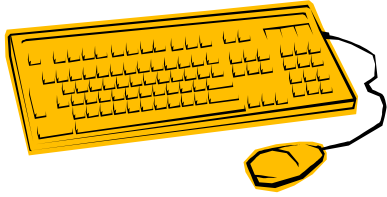
And, despite the many conflicts in schedule and uneasiness some felt about travel, representatives from the Far West Region nonetheless attended the convention in large numbers. **11** chapters from **6** states were listed on the convention program; **60** Far West students were listed as presenting at the 80 sessions. Although this number of students includes repeats (students, for example, both presenting critical essays and reading original poetry or fiction), it doesn't include those who also chaired sessions or the faculty who moderated sessions, so overall there was a fabulous showing for the Far West! Be sure to read elsewhere in this newsletter about the Awards the Far West convention-goers reaped.

Now, as the end of Spring term (whether semester or quarter) begins to beckon to us all, begins to invite us to look forward to the respite of summer, I wish you successful, sunny days ahead as you wind up AY 2002-03. And please do contact me if you have any questions whatsoever about our Region or the organization: [sbillings@scu.edu](mailto:sbillings@scu.edu).



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## From the keyboard of the Student Representative:

Our region has been honored to have Becky Sorenson as our Student Rep for the past two years. Becky has dedicated much of her time to encouraging involvement among all the chapters, such as by helping to establish the Leadership Workshop at this year's annual convention. We wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors!

As your new Student Rep, I plan to continue working to promote inter-chapter fellowship in our region, as spread out as some of our chapters may be. I'm very fortunate to be working with Tara Faye, our Associate Student Rep from Chaminade University of Honolulu, Hawaii. I'm currently a senior with a double major in English and Economics at Santa Clara University in California, and I'm really excited to get to know people from all over our region!

If you need anything, please don't hesitate to email me at [kquevedo@scu.edu](mailto:kquevedo@scu.edu) or Tara at [tjfaye30@hotmail.com](mailto:tjfaye30@hotmail.com).

Thanks for your support of Sigma Tau Delta!

—Katherine



Becky Sorenson, Simone Billings, Katherine Quevedo, and Tara Faye

**Next year's convention: Daytona Beach, Florida  
24-28 March 2004**

**NEXT YEAR'S CONVENTION** will be March 25-28, 2004, in Daytona Beach at the Adam's Mark Hotel—right on the beach with its own beach! Check out the location at <http://www.adamsmark.com/daytonabeach/>; once you see the location, we can guarantee you'll want to submit your papers and get there if you can! The theme seems to be "A Pleasant Walk, a Pleasant Talk," taken from Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking-Glass* poem "The Walrus and the Carpenter," stanza 6. High Plains Regent Elizabeth Holtze is the convention chair. Watch for the call for papers in the Fall on the web site and in the mail to your chapters. But since it's soooo far from us Far Western states, begin thinking about fundraising now as well for the plane fares!



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