



Sigma Tau Delta

The Far West

Outpost

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2005 Convention

The 2005 National Convention of Sigma Tau Delta was a wonderful success. Peter Hessler. Jamaica Kincaid. Henri Cole. These distinguished speakers made great presentations on each of their respective nights and were full of helpful information in workshops for prospective student writers during the following days.

Many students presented their work, including thirty-six from the Far Western Region. Student presentations were made in three categories: poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. There were workshops on leadership for our chapters and for fundraising as well. Sigma Tau Delta T-shirt sales were very popular and there were many outstanding and imaginative creations. Great opportunities abounded, from “schmoozing” with well-known writers and thinkers to hanging out in downtown Kansas City jazz clubs with old friends and new.

Memories of this convention will be well remembered and expectations of the next are great. See you all in Portland next year!

New Regent

Matt Schneider

I'm thrilled and honored to have been elected as the new Far Western Regent of Sigma Tau Delta. I've been the faculty sponsor of the Alpha Zeta Iota chapter here at Chapman since 1999. I've also served as a member of the STD Convention Committee, and for the past three years or so I've reviewed submissions for the *Rectangle*, the Convention, and the literary magazine awards. I'm looking eagerly forward to doing what I can to help all Far Western chapters promote literacy and the appreciation of literary masterpieces. When I'm not preparing for classes, researching and writing about 19th-century British literature, and marking papers, I enjoy camping and hiking with my family (2 girls, 12 and 8, and a 6-year-old-boy), playing music (guitar, piano, and electric bass), and coaching Little League baseball (go Angels and Athletics!). You can email me at schneide@chapman.edu, and be sure to check out my website: www.chapman.edu/comm/english/faculty/schneide.



New Student Representative

Jennifer Ouellette

Hello to all in the Far Western Region. My name is Jennifer Ouellette and I'm the new Student Representative for our region. I'm looking forward to working with our new ASR, Kim Lock, and our new Regent, Matthew Schneider on next year's convention as well as upcoming activities. Kansas City was a blast and a great success and I hope for Portland to be as well. I'm working on organizing a regional service activity with First Book, a literacy project that provides books for underprivileged students.

The Far West was pretty well represented this year at conference and I hope to see us even better represented next year, when the conference is in our region! We would like to encourage everyone to participate and to apply for the numerous awards and scholarships available to Sigma Tau Delta members.

If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at: ouel1215@uidaho.edu

New Associate Student Representative

Kim Lock

I'm originally from Hereford, England and moved to Boise, Idaho in 1989. In the Fall I'll be a first-year junior majoring in English Writing at Boise State where I'm currently the treasurer for the Zeta Upsilon chapter of Sigma Tau Delta. I initially majored in psychology, but found that I enjoyed the process of writing more than delving into brains and statistics. I love words (my favorite book is the Oxford English Dictionary), constructing beautiful sentences, and writing poetry and creative non-fiction. My favorite maxim is by G. K. Chesterton (English essayist and novelist 1874-1936) who said "The function of the imagination is not to make strange things settled, so much as to make settled things strange."

I'm looking forward to serving as the Associate Student Representative for the Far West Region and I'm excited that next year's annual conference is in our region! You can contact me at:

kimlock@mail.boisestate.edu

The logo for Sigma Tau Delta, featuring the organization's name in a stylized, gothic-style font. The text is embossed on a light brown, textured rectangular background.

Chapter News

California State University, Chico

Rob Davidson, Assistant Professor of Creative Writing and American Literature reports that six members read creative and scholarly work at the 2005 Humanities and Fine Arts Symposium at CSU, Chico (April 2005). Chapter members are currently volunteering in the 2005 Spring Into Reading fair, a local reading and literacy initiative for elementary students. Chapter members are also planning to participate in a workshop with local area high school students to help the students write successful college entrance exams.

Boise State University

We have just revived the annual Sigma Tau Delta “Poetry Awards” competition which is open to all part- and full-time undergraduates at BSU. Cash prizes from an endowment that was set up by members and alumni in 1997 will hopefully attract not only English major poets but also poets from all over campus. We are excited about the competition because, first, we love poetry, and second, the BSU English Department’s annual awards do not include poetry!

Once again, we were invited to judge literature essays at the local and state junior high schools’ Academic Decathlons. This is always a great time to get together to read some great, some not-so-great, and some downright funny essays. We work hard, we laugh, we eat pizza, and we earn money for our chapter at the same time—the organizers pay \$300 for our services.

We are also conducting our annual membership drive. This is an important year for enrollment because a number of our officers and long-time members are graduating. Echo Savage, our current president will graduate in May, no doubt with honors. Her skills, her wit, and her playful sarcasm will be sorely missed. Good luck with your future endeavors, Echo!

University of Idaho

Here at UI we’ve been busy inducting 16 new members into Sigma Tau Delta. We’ve also been attending the many guest lectures that our English Department has brought to campus. Among visiting writers since the conference have been poets Tony Hoagland and the three-time U.S. poet laureate Robert Pinsky. Before school is out this semester we will be having a Champagne and Flowers breakfast in honor of our outstanding English Seniors to send them off before graduation in style!

A Chance to Make a Difference

by Jennifer Ouellette

There are many opportunities in which we, as members of Sigma Tau Delta, can help better our communities. As a spotlight, I would like to let

everyone know about a program that my chapter, Eta Chi, is involved in, and to urge other chapters to get involved as well.

First Book is a national non-profit organization that works to provide books for children from low-income families. Since its inception *First Book* has provided over thirty million new books to children nationwide. Children helped by *First Book* are found through local Advisory Boards in already existing programs such as youth centers, daycare centers, and migrant worker camps. *First Book* helps to increase the quality of these services, in turn benefiting the children. The Advisory Boards hold local fundraisers and select the programs in their community through which to distribute the funds raised. These programs then use the funds to order books out of catalogues that work with *First Book's* publishing partners and that offer discounted books. The books chosen are then incorporated into lessons that the program has chosen, and when finished, the books are given to the children to take home and keep.

This system, as well as a *First Book National Book Bank* that allows publishers to donate books and educational materials, aids *First Book* in the fight against illiteracy. If you or other members of your chapter are interested, I urge you to visit the *First Book* website at www.firstbook.org for more information and links on how to get involved.



Helpful Links

Calendar: Here you can check out when scholarship and internship applications or nominations are due, paper submission dates, and registration times.

<http://www.english.org/calendar.shtml>

Graphics: This is where you will be able to find banners, seals, and more to complete your official Sigma Tau Delta correspondence, or just to add a little “flair” to your chapter’s publications.

<http://www.english.org/graphics.shtml>

Directory: Here you can find a list of Sigma Tau Delta chapters by state.

<http://www.english.org/directory.shtml>

Scholarships: Here you will find links to the scholarship applications awarded by Sigma Tau Delta.

<http://www.english.org/scholarships.shtml>