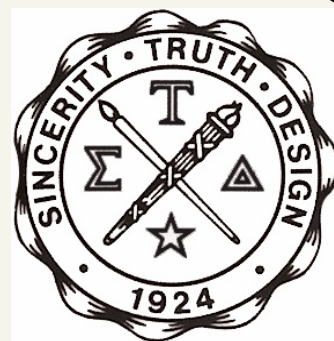




Sigma Tau Delta High Plains Newsletter Fall 2006



Greetings From Your Student Representative: Rachel Moses

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Hello everyone! Time has flown and the end of the semester and the year is in sight! Here in Denver we've already had our first snow and 'blizzard' (it was less than a foot, but some businesses still closed down).

I'm getting excited, and I hope you are too, about the convention in Pittsburgh this spring. After attending the fall board meetings there in September I'm excited to go back. There are so many things to do and see! I've included a list below of 5 of

my favorites, but there are also the Carnegie museums and several historic landmarks to visit. The conference itself will be fantastic too: I'm looking forward to all the panels and activities as well as the speakers. This spring's speakers are Sharon Olds, David Rakoff, and Jim Daniels.

Don't forget to submit a piece to the convention. Of all the things I loved about the 2006 convention in Portland, I'd have to say having the opportunity to present on

a panel was the most rewarding. It's a chance you shouldn't pass up!

R. Moses
rmoses1@mscd.edu



Taking a break during a hike at Colorado National Monument

5 Things To Do in Pittsburgh

5. Visit Station Square: Full of familiar restaurants like the Hard Rock Café and the Melting Pot, Station Square is a great place to grab a bite to eat and do a little shopping.
<www.stationsquare.com/attractions.htm>

4. Visit the Fort Pitt Museum: Located across the street from the conference hotel, the Fort Pitt Museum features exhibits which detail Fort Pitt's importance as a strategic point the French and Indian War. Walk a little farther and you'll be in Point State Park where you can see up close the confluence of Pittsburgh's rivers.
<www.fortpittmuseum.com/WelcomePage.html>

3. Get a Primanti Sandwich at Primanti Brothers at Market Square: Market Square is a short walk from the conference hotel and features a number of restaurants, and the most memorable is Primanti Brothers. Each of their delicious sandwiches comes with coleslaw and fries...on top of the sandwich! A must try.
<www.primantibros.com>

2. Take a Ride on 'The Incline': Breathtaking views are guaranteed if you decide to ride the Incline up to Mount Washington. Sort of like a trolley car, incline cars are designed so that you sit level as you ascend and descend. Once you ride up to Mount Washington take a walk and

enjoy views of the rivers and downtown Pittsburgh.
<www.incline.cc>

1. Visit the Andy Warhol Museum: Located a short walk across the 7th Street Bridge, the Andy Warhol Museum features 7 floors of exhibits by Warhol as well as other contributors. This takes about 1 & ½ hours to view completely.
<www.warhol.org/>

More Info:
www.visitpittsburgh.com

(As always, be cautious when visiting a new city and go with a group in unfamiliar areas. Remember, a safe trip is a fun trip!)

HIGH PLAINS CHAPTER TOTALS:

Montana: 4
North Dakota: 4
South Dakota: 8
Wyoming: 1
Colorado: 8
Nebraska: 13
Kansas: 8
Total Chapters: 46

A Message From Your Regent: Elizabeth Holtze

Olds Is New

Yes, yes, I know that it's a bad pun, but Sharon Olds writes such wonderful and provocative poems. For example, these opening lines of "The One Girl at the Boys' Party":

When I take my girl to the swim-
ming party
I set her down among the boys.
They tower and
Bristle, she stands there smooth
and sleek,
Her math scores unfolding in the
air around her.

As you may already know, Sharon Olds is one of our speakers at the Pittsburgh convention next march and her collection *Strikes Sparks* (Knopf (2004) is this year's common reader. We six ΣΤΔ Regents wish to encourage activities around the common reader, and so are offering awards—up to four per region, of \$50.00 each—for such creative chapter activities. Ask your advisor about the Call for Submissions or visit our website for details.

We have tried to make these submission requirements as easy as possible. What might be "unfolding in the air" around you?

And, as always, please feel free to contact me with questions, comments, suggestions that you may have concerning your chapter, the High Plains region, the national convention, or anything else related to Sigma Tau Delta.

Elizabeth Holtze
High Plains Regent
<holtzee@mscd.edu>



High Plains Anthem By Kris Bair and the Sisters Grim Fort Hays State University

(Sung to the tune of *Home on the Range*)

Oh, give me a home,
Where the Sig'TDs roam
And all of the *best* stu-
dents stay!
Where seldom is heard
A discouraging word,
And the texts are not
cloudy all day!

Home, home on th' High
Plains
Where our students have
more than great brains!
We study all day;
In the evening we play,
Coming up with superior
refrains!

New Chapter Alert!

On behalf of Sigma Tau Delta, I'd like to welcome our newest High Plains chapter, **Alpha Xi Mu** at Augustana College in South Dakota. I can't wait to see what you have to bring to our region!

Thinking About Ritual

If your chapter has had a successful membership drive this fall then there are probably several new members asking about initiation ceremonies. The Sigma Tau Delta Handbook lists two different ceremonies, 'traditional' and 'alternative,' and many chapters choose to follow one of

these to the letter. But as times change we are inclined to 'modernize' the ceremonies. The Alpha Psi chapter, which I am a part of, has a formal initiation and banquet in the spring, following closely the traditional induction ceremony, while if a fall initiation is necessary it is low-key, but

intimate. The important thing is, despite if you want to follow the ceremony exactly or add your own flare to it, that we create rituals. The rituals created through the ceremonies connect members new and old through the years.

R. Moses

Meet The Cloyeds



Richard and Juanita Cloyd at the 2006 Convention in Portland

Dear High Plains Deltans,

Want one more reason to think about attending the spring conference in Pittsburgh? You may get a chance to meet Richard and Juanita Cloyd, who have attended all of the

ΣΤΑ conventions—save two—since 1972. Richard, now retired from the University of Nebraska-Kearny, first became involved with ΣΤΑ at a meeting in DeKalb, Illinois, in 1970 (“I was a regent and I didn’t know it”), a year after the death of long-time president J. Q. Owen. In 1970 the ΣΤΑ Central Office moved to Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, where it remains today and the society was reorganized and incorporated under the leadership of E. Nelson James, who in 2006 was also able to attend our Portland convention,

Richard and Juanita have wonderful memories of the early years of their chapter. For example, initiates

were required to wear red and black ribbons pinned to their shirt for an entire week following the induction ceremony (a practice E. Nelson James “thought a bit harsh”). And in the early years, inductions were held either in the Plainview Café at breakfast time or in the Cloyeds’ dining room with their sheepdog curled up under the table; Juanita recalls that at first she would listen from the kitchen, but “in later years” she joined the group.

In 1972 Richard hosted the second convention of our reorganized society and was elected Treasurer, a post he held for more than three decades. The 1972 convention at Kearny State College, as it was then known, was also the occasion of an embarrassingly funny incident involving the judge of the poetry selections published in *The Rectangle*. The judge, John Ciardi, when commenting on one of the poems he had chosen as outstanding work said, “I really like this poem—but then I liked it when I wrote it.” The student who had submitted Ciardi’s poem as his original work (an English minor, not a major) had tried to conceal his scholarly crime by checking out of the campus library the volume in which the poem was originally printed.

Let’s hope that Deltans today continue the part of our heritage that includes the fellowship of initiation ceremonies, the love of poetry, and the sharing of scholarly and creative work at conventions—but leave behind the plagiarism!

Best regards,
Elizabeth Holtze
High Plains Regent

Mourning Glory

Morgan C. Chalfant

Rho Psi — Fort Hays University

Upon the field of battle I stand defiantly,
listening to the menacing sounds of the rage fueled war cries.
They only echo in my once virgin ears like a nightmare,
yet, my mind knows better.

My human eyes look upon my vanquished enemy.
I scan the ground beneath my feet.
My foe’s blood stains the dirt.

The same red fluid stains the once unblemished carapace
that shielded my body from countless blows,
although, the armor was not my savior.

Adaptation can now claim itself my knight in shining armor.
Uncomprehensible feelings fill my heart
as the darkness holds its sway.

My once innocent, now tainted hands
hold the sword of my ancestors, dyed crimson red.
Flashes of the battle splinter the mind.

What once was untarnished by the catalysts of a brutal, barbarous world,
is now corrupted, dirtied, and soiled with fragmented emotions.
I am compelled to express the emotional happiness of survival,
but none exists.

No spoils go to the victor this day or any.
Never have my enemies and my allies been so close,
lying intermixed with one another,
their eyes shut by death’s passionless embrace.

A cornucopia of thoughts race through my troubled psyche,
but one stands above all the rest.
“There is no glory in war, only mourning.”

Sigma Tau Delta Book Corner

Decomposition J. Eric Miller

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This post-modern odyssey follows the female narrator as she escapes Louisiana and Hurricane Katrina, chicken at her side, ex-boyfriend's body in the trunk. Thinking she's escaping to Seattle where the 'good boyfriend' is, she doesn't know how hard it is going to be to get away. Colorfully written, the author creates a secondary reality within his narrator, allowing us to watch first-hand her desires, lusts, and obsessions. Don't let the foul language turn you off, this book connects us intimately to those things we often choose to doll-up and sweep aside: death, sex, and decomposition.

Born to a miner/taxidermist and a social worker in Colorado, J. Eric Miller received his Ph.D. in English from the University of Denver, his work has been described as "nihilistic" and "subversive." He currently teaches composition in Colorado.



Back Page Poetry

Misfit Siren

Katie Achéy

Alpha Theta Beta - Friends University

She bleats into the open sky,
splashing the air with waves
of noxious melodies
and molesting every ear
within her range.
Suspended in the prison of her echo,
sailors cringe from the auditory agony
undulating above the sea.
Without delay,
she hurls another pitch
to the undeserving crowd;
her ignorance provokes nausea and tears.
Beckoning no one,
the gulls fly away
'till they're deaf to her noise
for even the death cry of a whale
would be a prettier song than hers.

Talking About Banned Books

Jennifer Goodland

Alpha Psi—Metropolitan State College of Denver

Everyone who is passionate about banned books, it seems, has a story—of a book removed from a school library, a parent who condemned certain types of beloved literature, a parent who intentionally had their children read objectionable literature, or a library whose stacks seemed inviolate to the whims of censorship until a fateful PTA meeting.

My own story concerns my elementary school library. I stopped using it the day I returned a biography of Benjamin Franklin, only to be told that I would be restricted to the younger sections from then on. They hadn't contacted my mother—who encouraged me at that age to borrow her radical leftist literature—to see if she wanted me to be restricted. I saw that the decision had been made not just for me, but for her as well. While we were told to learn and to value education, we were shown that we were only supposed to value learning exactly the same way as everyone else.

When our chapter planned our Banned Books Week lecture, we weren't planning on the moment of commiseration when we started sharing our own stories. It didn't matter which book it was that triggered our memories—we all had the same idea planted in our heads that this as radicalism, and we all had gotten the impression that it would be right to engage in it, and it could be no other way.