



# Sigma Tau Delta High Plains Newsletter Spring 2005

## In this issue:

- News from SR, ASR and Regent
- New Chapter
- Chapter Updates
- Essay Winner
- Portland, 2006

Be great in act, as you have been in thought.

-Shakespeare

## Greetings from your new Student Representative:



Hello all High Plains Region Chapters!

My name is Amanda Syljuberget and I am the newly elected Student Representative for the High Plains Region. I am a senior in the English Department at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. I am completing both the teaching and literature options in the English Department as well as a library media minor. I plan to graduate next spring in May 2006. I am involved in many extra-curricular activities on campus, but one I am most proud of is Students Against Sexual Assault. April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and we just finished all of our incredibly rewarding events, such as the Silent Protests, benefit concert and the annual Take Back the Night March. If any of you have the opportunity to attend one of these nation-wide marches, I highly recommend it!

In my spare time I like to read anything and everything, but my focus of study is actually American Indian literature. I am proud to say that I was recently given the opportunity to meet Sherman Alexie, who is by far my favorite contemporary author. I was blown away by his warmth, generosity and intelligence. MSU was also able to bring in another accomplished and *somewhat* well known author: Salman Rushdie! Rushdie was equally amazing and inspiring. I urge all of you to seek out both of these authors!

I am getting married this summer in July, after which my name will be infinitely easier to say and spell. For once in my life, I will have a pronounceable last name: Mead! After the wedding, I will send out an email to all of the chapter sponsors updating my new name and email address.

I hope all of you are ending this semester on a high note and that you have a wonderful summer. Please contact me if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns. I look forward to a wonderful year serving you!

Amanda Syljuberget  
High Plains Student Representative  
a\_sylj@hotmail.com

Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest.

– Mark Twain

Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.

– Robert Frost

## Greetings from your Regent:

What a pleasure it is to reflect on Kansas City and the High Plains presence there. I enjoyed meeting members from our region at the Friday caucus—Fort Hays State University, University of Nebraska at Kearny, Emporia State (KS), Nebraska Wesleyan, Montana State University, Baker University (KS), and Metropolitan State College of Denver. And, later, I particularly enjoyed congratulating Eric Melvin Reed (UN-Kearny) for his convention prize essay, "Structure, Metafiction, and the Real in Charlie Kaufman's 'Adaptation'."

As wonderful as conventions are—and they are wonderful—I have been pondering ways in which our region could be in closer touch. Thus, I would like to announce a High Plains regional contest for next fall. Dr. Bob Crafton will soon be announcing a common reader for the 2006 convention in Portland. Some of you may wish to use that common reader as the subject for a panel or individual submission to the 2006 convention. In addition to that, or aside from that, I invite all student members in the High Plains to submit to me a text focused on the '06 common reader. Your submission may be in any genre, it must conform to the conference guidelines for that genre, and it must be mailed to me at Metro State by the conference submission deadline next fall. There will be a first prize of \$100 and, depending upon the number and quality of submissions, there may be other prizes. This contest is open only to High Plains members and is completely separate from convention submissions. Results will be announced in January. I hope that it will be a way for us in the region to share a convention-related experience even though not all of us are able to travel to Portland or elsewhere. I'll be in touch with your campus advisors when Dr. Crafton announces the common reader chosen by his committee. In Kansas City, Jamaica Kincaid talked about her love of writing and reading, telling her audience, "I have no writing routine. I write and read. I write to have the leisure to read. Reading is my life." Until you hear from me again, I wish each of you much pleasure in both your writing and your reading.

Elizabeth Holtze  
High Plains Regent  
Metropolitan State College of Denver  
holtzee@mscd.edu

In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.

– Martin Luther King Jr.

Honesty may be the best policy, but it's important to remember that apparently, by elimination, dishonesty is the second-best policy.

– George Carlin

## Greetings from your Associate Student Representative:

Friends, countrymen, and well I won't use the last part. I hope everyone is enjoying their year. My name is Rachel Christina Miller, and I am the new Assistant Student Rep for the High Plains Region. I was asked to do a little blurb about myself, and it has taking great amounts of pondering and agitation to figure out what I wanted to say.

I am graduating with my BA in English-Writing in May, and I am busy applying to grad schools. I intend to go through a lit program, and end up with a PhD in Epidemiology and Literature. However, that is far into the future, and life always seems to change my plans, without consulting me first.

I could make this more like a personal ad and say that I enjoy hiking, backpacking, swimming, diving, reading, movies, music, homemaking but then I would sound incredibly busy and probably a little humorous, although most of the people who know me think I am very sweet and have endured more than my share of tribulations. However, most of my friends would tell you that either I am traveling the world, saving the world, or working on my computer. Therefore that saying "don't judge a book by its cover" probably explains me perfectly.

Now, since I know that I have a very limited amount of space, I am going to end with a little advice my Treasurer told me not too long ago, "Life is what happens when your busy making plans."

Cheers,  
Rachel Christina  
ASR of High Plains

## CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME!

The High Plains would like to welcome its newest chapter, Alpha Mu Phi from the University of South Dakota, whose sponsors are Brian Bedard and John Dudley. We welcome you and hope to see you at next year's convention in Portland!

If you want your life to be rewarding, you have to change the way you think.

– Oprah Winfrey

Our lives teach us who we are.

– Salman Rushdie

## CHAPTER UPDATES!

### ALPHA BETA MU

#### Emporia State University – Emporia, Kansas

My name is Lauren Gantz, and I am the outgoing president of the Alpha Beta Mu chapter of Sigma Tau Delta. We're located at Emporia State University in Emporia, KS.

Our spring semester has gone pretty well, although we have been struggling because our advisor, Dr. Richard Keller, has been ill. Our assistant advisor, Dr. Cynthia Patton, has stepped up to the job and excelled at it. We've mostly been involved with on-campus literary events this semester. Just recently we had a reading of literature, poetry, and non-fiction that was representative of Kansas and the Great Plains. We were working with the library on campus for a new event sponsored by the American Library Association called Many Voices, One Nation, One Night at Your Library. It went quite well, and we hope to build a tradition out of this event. We have also worked with our creative writing program to help out with visiting writers.

The conference went quite well, although I was unfortunately the only member who could go. However, we have gotten quite a bit of funding from our student government for next year, and plan to do some fundraising events, so hopefully we can send more members to Portland in the spring of 2006.

We're having our last meeting, which will be both an election/induction meeting, this coming Friday. We'll be inducting four new members into the chapter: Asaad Al-Saleh, Robin Long, Mirona Magearu, and Shawnsey Rudolph. We hope to do some major recruitment this fall so that we can induct even more members next year.

We did not have any service projects this semester, but this past fall we did quite a bit of work with Project Challenge, a local after-school program. We also held a Tales for Tots book drive, and ended up collecting hundreds of children's books for donation to a local foster care agency. We would like to make a tradition out of this book drive because it went so well.

On the whole, it has been a productive year, and we hope to continue to be active on campus and in the community next year.

Lauren Gantz  
President – Alpha Beta Mu

If more of us  
valued food  
and cheer and  
song above  
hoarded gold,  
it would be a  
merrier world.

– J.R.R.  
Tolkien

Where so  
many hours  
have been  
spent  
convincing  
myself that I  
am right, is  
there not  
some reason  
that to fear I  
may be  
wrong?

– Jane Austen

## ALPHA KAPPA ZETA

### Montana State University – Bozeman, Montana

The Montana State University Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta sent three of its members to the convention in Kansas City this year. Francoise Sauvage, Brian Johnsrud and Amanda Syljuberget each presented provocative papers on current research in their respective fields of study. Brian and Amanda were supported by a Research and Travel Grant given by the MSU College of Letters and Science. Francoise extended her Undergraduate Scholars Program Grant to include her travel expenses. Francoise's paper was a shorter version of the final paper she has recently finished which culminated in groundbreaking work towards recognizing Chicana feminist literature. Brian continued his work on a paper equating the demise of Beowulf with the demise of Anglo-Saxon culture. He plans on submitting a longer version of this paper to the Norton Scholars Prize competition. Amanda presented a paper on the use of comedy as a tool to promote misogyny in the medieval Cycle Plays. MSU hopes to send at least five of its Sigma Tau Delta members to next year's conference in Portland. Already many students are excited about possible panels with such topics as the Harlem Renaissance, Myth and Fantasy, and feminist literature.

### STD Convention Essay Winner – 2004

At this year's convention in Kansas City, Missouri, a member of the High Plains Region won best analytical essay. Eric Reed of University of Nebraska – Kearney is pictured in the middle of this photo with Dr. Richard Cloyd and his wife, Bonita. Dr. Cloyd retired from UN-Kearney and was STD's board Treasurer for many years. He and Mrs. Cloyd still come to all of the conferences. Below the picture, Eric recounts his first Sigma Tau Delta Convention.



I don't want to achieve immortality through my work...I want to achieve it through not dying.

– Woody Allen

The mind, that ocean where each kind does straight its own resemblance find; yet it creates, transcending these, far other worlds and other seas, annihilating all that's made to a green thought in a green shade.

– Andrew Marvell

Two things struck me as interesting at my first annual Sigma Tau Delta convention in Kansas City last March: First, that all the sessions were well attended even though Kansas City is nowhere near a beach, and second, I was surprised to see how earnestly audience members engaged in all the presentations. Except for the few rare occasions when someone seemed bent on showing off his or her knowledge of a particular subject, the questions that followed each presentation were, I thought, thought provoking and challenging, but not hostile or malicious.

Here's what did disappoint me about the conference, though: the apparent neglect of film studies in English departments across the country. The interest in film, of course, is obviously there—for my session, in which all the essays were in some way related to a movie or television show, there were more people in the room than there were chairs. The reason for this sizeable crowd, in my opinion, was that not too many people were writing about film at the time. Moreover, while many participants were unlikely to have encountered some of the topics in other sessions, in mine they seemed a lot more likely to have knowledge of the subject.

My paper, the one that received the convention award for critical essay, addresses Charlie Kaufman's film script for *Adaptation* more than it does the film. And that's something else I'd like to see at next year's convention: more people writing about the screenplay as a valid text for analysis. Too often, I think, we forget that the screenplay is in many cases the original vision for a final product and deserves just as much attention as the film.

So please, pull out the DVDs and get to studying. Next year's convention is a great excuse to revisit your favorite movies, and some of the classics, too. I know I look forward to hearing about them.

Eric Reed  
2005 Convention Essay Winner

**Come join us in Portland, Oregon for the Sigma Tau Delta National Convention taking place March 29-April 2, 2006!**

**The Portland Convention Theme: GREEN!**