

# Sigma Tau Delta

## Meet Your New Regent

by Jennifer Goodland - Vice President Alpha Psi Chapter

What do you call a guy made up of equal parts Montana, Colorado, Georgia, Beirut, and PETA? You call him Regent. Jason Eric Miller is known here as “the vegan who shows us movies about cannibalism” and “the guy who tells me to do stuff, and I do it.” Which is why I’m writing this biography. In his first semester at Metropolitan State College of Denver, Dr. Miller attained cult status. Legendary amongst all who enjoyed his aptly-titled short story collection Animal Rights and Pornography, his classes remake our writing and ourselves whether we want them to or not.



If this sounds a little scary to you, imagine how his students feel – but all of us have learned that the fear becomes liberating. Outsiders stereotype the bookish as mousy wallflowers, but we know the truth: writing is risk, and reading shares the risk. The more we’re forced to scratch that itch, to experience rejection of our souls in the midst of our successes, the more we withstand it. Dr. Miller’s writing students confront each other about creative flaws because it happens with the knowledge that we all share these flaws. Whether this extends to Miller himself is not known, though his affection for the oeuvre of Jim Jarmusch indicates that it does. It’s a rare creature who can watch Dead Man without staring into the darkened abyss of his soul.

My hope, as someone who is graduating and therefore no longer subject to his authority, is that all of you acquaint yourself with the gospel of fear as I have. I guarantee you will be better for it. Hopefully the reign of Dr. Miller over the High Plains Region will be as merciful as it will be active. I anticipate few beheadings. So it goes. ▲

*feel free to contact Dr. Miller at [jmill203@mscd.edu](mailto:jmill203@mscd.edu)*

### Inside:

**Page 1**

Meet Your New Regent  
Award Winners

**Page 2**

From London  
Who We Are

**Page 3**

You Go To School For  
Shortcuts and Community

**Page 4**

It’s Spring! And A Bunch  
of Other Stuff Too  
Welcome New Chapters

**Page 5**

The Money  
Calendar  
New Faces  
Back Page Bad Poem

CONGRATULATIONS SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD WINNERS!



**ΣΤΔ Study Abroad  
Scholarship**  
Adrienne Halpin  
Washburn University  
Phi Rho Chapter

**Creative Nonfiction / Personal Essay Awards**  
1st Place  
Abby Hagler  
University of Nebraska, Omaha - Kappa Gamma Chapter  
2nd Place  
Brianna Lichtenauer  
Baker University - Epsilon Sigma Chapter

# FROM LONDON, DR. ELIZABETH HOLTZE

Dear Deltans,

The High Plains now has an energetic new regent, Jason Miller, and I am finishing up a semester teaching in London while preparing for retirement. Yesterday I visited Jane Austen's house in Chawton, Hampshire, a tiny village where Austen lived for the last ten years of her life. Wonderful as it was, I recall an equally wonderful visit two colleagues recently made to Red Cloud, Nebraska, Willa Cather's childhood home. I saw the writing table where Austen wrote three novels and revised two others; they accessed the Cather archives, reading letters never published and unavailable elsewhere. These two juxtaposed experiences remind me that scholarship and the literary life are open to us all in many places. And since one was the site of beginnings and the other endings, both productive, the two experiences remind me of the two paths you and Regent Miller on the one hand, I on the other, are embarking upon. May both be happy and productive. And may I see many of you next March at the convention in Louisville.

Your former High Plains Regent,  
Elizabeth Holtze

Dr. Holtze has been involved with Sigma Tau Delta since 1988, serving as Sponsor, Regent, Editor of Publications and Convention Chair.

Her name is attached to the Elizabeth Holtze Creative Nonfiction Award, which is presented through *The Rectangle*, Sigma Tau Delta's Annual Literary Magazine.

At hearing of her retirement plans there was a great wailing and gnashing of teeth amongst the students of Metropolitan State College of Denver. We are, however, getting used to the idea and wish her the best of luck, health, and wisdom in her future endeavors.

WHO WE ARE:

47 in total

**Montana - 4**

- Carroll College at Helena
- Montana State University - Billings
- Montana State University - Bozeman
- University of Montana - Western

**Wyoming - 1**

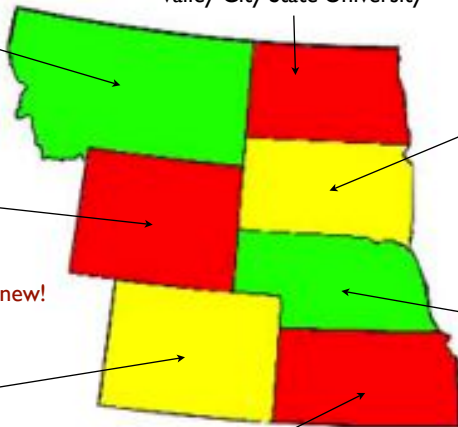
- University of Wyoming

**Colorado - 11**

- Colorado Christian University - Lakewood *new!*
- Colorado State University - Pueblo
- Fort Lewis College - Durango
- Mesa State College - Grand Junction
- Metropolitan State College of Denver
- United States Air Force Academy - USAFA
- University of Colorado at Boulder
- University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
- University of Denver
- University of Northern Colorado - Greeley
- Western State College of Colorado - Gunnison

**North Dakota - 4**

- Dickinson State University
- Minot State University
- University of North Dakota - Grand Forks
- Valley City State University



**South Dakota - 7**

- Dakota State University - Madison
- Dakota Wesleyan University - Mitchell
- Mount Marty College - Yankton
- Northern State University - Aberdeen
- South Dakota State University - Brookings
- University of Sioux Falls
- University of South Dakota - Vermillion

**Nebraska - 12**

- Chadron State College
- Concordia University - Seward
- Creighton University - Omaha
- Doane College - Crete
- Hastings College
- Midland Lutheran College - Fremont
- Nebraska Wesleyan University - Lincoln
- Peru State College
- University of Nebraska at Kearney
- University of Nebraska at Omaha
- Wayne State College
- York College

**Kansas - 8**

- Baker University - Baldwin City
- Emporia State University
- Fort Hays State University
- Friends University - Wichita
- Kansas State University - Manhattan
- Pittsburg State University
- Washburn University - Topeka
- Wichita State University

for more info visit:  
[http://www.english.org/reg\\_highplains.shtml](http://www.english.org/reg_highplains.shtml)

as of April 20, 2007

## YOU GO TO SCHOOL FOR SHORTCUTS AND COMMUNITY

by Tameca L Coleman - ASR High Plains

I once believed that in order for communities to exist, they had to be made. I would send letters to peers and professors, asking them specifically if they would like to be in *my* community. I wanted to work with the brilliance I had begun to meet at college. I had no idea, however, what specifically I wanted to accomplish. The letters mostly went unanswered. I was primarily upset. I decided that I would keep asking people to be in my community until someone said yes, nonetheless.

Eventually, I grew tired of that. I realized that it wasn't about making a community. The community already existed. What was important was doing something in that community. These realizations made what Robert Wrigley (professor and poet in residence at University of Idaho) told me finally click. He had finished looking over some of my poems at a writer's workshop at an Idaho retreat. We talked about my conflicted decision over whether to attend college. He related that "you go to school for shortcuts and community." I remember when I heard this comment; I was unable to say much else. It was the best reason I had ever heard for attending college. Life is short and I was bereft of the support group I craved.

I knew that school did not make the writer. It was the reason I had shirked universities for many years. What I found, in my attempts to be motivated and disciplined without some kind of support group was pure and utter loneliness. I had no real contacts. There were so few serious writers who were willing to work with me because I had not done the work needed to become a productive member of the group. It took starving myself in the world of working myriad dead end jobs, some of which paid well, oddly enough, for me to finally decide to go back to school. I even tried Network marketing, a field which required me to sell the product I was representing every time I met up with a friend, a family member or a stranger. It required long hours. I had no energy for writing, then. I told myself that if I was going to work that hard, I would apply that effort to the things I loved.

*It took starving myself in the world of working myriad dead end jobs, some of which paid well, oddly enough, for me to finally decide to go back to school.*

I enrolled in the Writing Emphasis English Major at Metropolitan State College of Denver in fall, 2004. I was not initially sure whether the school would offer me everything I wanted. I had heard that it was a good business school and that it was known for the aviation program. I knew nothing about the school's English program. I had almost decided to transfer to CU Boulder, after having taken a few of the freshman classes in the curriculum. However, when I decided to take a writing class ahead of schedule I found that I was enamored of my professors and of my peers.

The campus had many resources and there were people from all walks of life writing in all kinds of different voices, and many of them were doing it really well. My professors practiced what was taught. I was amongst writers, linguists, award winners, critics, theorists, essayists, poets, and many others.

In this community I began to find people like my friend and colleague, Adam Speirs. Collaborations brought about projects such as a poetry group called Metro Poets. This group allowed us to reach further into the community, on and off campus, to find out what was happening and take part in what we found. We were able to collaborate with other clubs on campus to create networks and collaborations with projects such as the honorary event that the Black Student Alliance and the History Club hosted for the Tuskegee Airmen in April. We are working with the Denver Poet's Association to bridge a gap between the "spoken word" poets and the "academics." We are working with Sigma Tau Delta to cultivate a literary magazine, and more regional college and high school involvement through possible contests, conventions and events.

All of this building of inner communities and networks within the larger communities that already exist feels good. I now belong to many productive social networks with resources that help the inner and outer communities simultaneously, fostering support in the broader community, while it is being supported. That is big. ▲

Tameca can be contacted at: [tcolem10@mscd.edu](mailto:tcolem10@mscd.edu)

## IT'S SPRING! AND A BUNCH OF OTHER STUFF TOO

by Kristofer Adam Speirs - SR High Plains

Well, it's spring. Zephyrus is eeking his swete breeth, robins and monarch butterflies have been sighted, though the ladybug still eludes, and the cherry blossoms have sprang. Also, things are new again.

A whole bunch of us opened up this spring in Pittsburgh at the annual convention, where we got to do a little molting, or at least I did.

I've always kind of held that each new experience we encounter changes us on a certain level, and that the bigger ones change us in a way that can sometimes make us unrecognizable to folk who only know the us that existed before. Its one of those things that keeps me trudging through when I get to feeling pretty uncomfortable with the number of obstacles or fears we sometimes have to put up with, that desire to see what weird thing I'm going to turn into next as a result of the experience.

This last big one, the Pittsburgh convention, was a bunch of firsts for me. First airplane ride, I was glued to that window for three hours straight; first time east of Kansas City, except when I was one I lived in Virginia for six months but I don't think that counts; first time reading a serious poem in front of a bunch of peers. I'm way cooler with the funny stuff, the serious stuff makes me cringe, because it's, y'know, so serious.

I came out of the whole thing feeling pretty good about the universe.

In fact, I came out of the whole thing more recognizable to people who know me than I was before, if that makes any sense.

Anyways, the whole point to this little existential blurb is to convince you that going to the conven-

tion in Kentucky next year will make you a better person than you were before. Maybe.

If anything it will give you the opportunity to hang out with people that are, aside from being totally awesome in their own right, into Willa Cather. I mean seriously, when was the last time you brought up Willa Cather at a party and got something other than a blank stare? Or David Rakoff, or New Formalism, or personifications of death and time in Shakespeare's sonnets? Seriously.

If you are into the language arts enough that you are a member of Sigma Tau Delta, you need to be making plans to get to the convention next March.

And if you don't know exactly how to go about making plans to be sitting in Louisville, KY, reading your deconstruction of Calvin and Hobbes to a roomful of very bright people, well, that's what Regent Miller, Tameca Coleman, and I are here to do. Help you figure out how you can get yourself to Kentucky.

And a bunch of other stuff too.

Like facilitating communications across the region through things like this newsletter and helping members and chapters achieve the goals they set for themselves as regards Sigma Tau Delta. My goal is to achieve greater exposure for the field of Linguistics at the convention next year. [I know there's a bunch of you linguists out there. Send me an email or something.]

So that's basically the dig.

I want to help, and if you want some help, send me note. ▲

*Adam can be contacted at: [speirs@mscd.edu](mailto:speirs@mscd.edu)*

---

## WELCOME NEW CHAPTERS:

Alpha Omicron Zeta -

**Colorado Christian University in Lakewood, Colorado.**

We welcome you warmly and can't wait to see what you bring to the Region.

## THE MONEY

**Scholarships**

Sigma Tau Delta presents a variety of international scholarships each year. Chapters may nominate three members to apply for each of the Junior, Senior, Graduate and Study Abroad Scholarships, worth up to \$2,500 apiece. Chapters may nominate three members for the Regnery Scholarship, endowed in 1992 in honor of Henry Regnery, the noted publisher. This scholarship, worth up to \$2,500, is given to an outstanding student scholar. Chapters may also nominate three members for the new Sigma Tau Delta Scholarship. This scholarship, worth \$3,000, is given to an outstanding student scholar who has performed outstanding service to Sigma Tau Delta.

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

**Grants**

Sigma Tau Delta's Project Grants are designed to encourage local chapters to be innovative in developing projects that further the goals of the Society.

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

**Awards**

Sigma Tau Delta has many awards for qualified student members, faculty sponsors, and chapters. These awards are given annually in the areas of teaching, writing, performance, conference paper presentation, and website construction.

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

---

## Back Page Bad Poem

*excerpt from The Art of Preserving Health by John Armstrong*

The languid stomach curses even the pure  
 Delicious fat, and all the race of oil:  
 For more, the oily ailments relax  
 Its feeble tone, and with the eager lymph  
 (fond to incorporate all it meets)  
 Coyly they mix, and shun with slippery wiles  
 The woo'd embrace. The irresoluble oil,  
 So gentle late and blandishing, in floods  
 of rancid bile o'erflows: what tumults hence,  
 What horrors rise, were nauseous to relate.  
 Choose leaner viands, ye whose jovial make  
 Too fast the gummy nutriment imbibes.

## Calendar

**May 30, 2007**

Regnery Internship Applications due.  
<http://www.english.org/internships.shtml>

**September, 2007**

Chapter Annual Reports due.  
 Fill them out early folks!

**March 5-8, 2008**

Annual Convention in Louisville, KY  
**Louisville** / 'lu:əvəl /

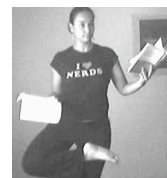
## The Faces of the New

**DR. ERIC JASON MILLER**

Regent  
 High Plains  
 Region  
[jmill203@mscd.edu](mailto:jmill203@mscd.edu)

**KRISTOFER ADAM SPEIRS**

Student  
 Representative  
 High Plains  
 Region.  
[speirs@mscd.edu](mailto:speirs@mscd.edu)

**TAMECA L COLEMAN**

Associate  
 Student  
 Representative  
 High Plains  
 Region  
[tcolem10@mscd.edu](mailto:tcolem10@mscd.edu)