



The High Plains

Sigma Tau Delta

May 1, 2009

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New Student Representative and Associate Student Representative

Hello and welcome from Ashley Brossart, Student Representative for the High Plains Region. As a first year member of Sigma Tau Delta, I couldn't be more proud of being involved in such a great Society.

I was born and raised in a small, rural town of 2500 people—Rugby, North Dakota—where we congratulate ourselves for being proud hillbillies from the Geographical Center of North America. After 3 years of changing majors at a two year college, I finally found my true calling as one of those English geeks at Minot State University. I couldn't be happier to be involved and working with such an outstanding group of individuals.

Sigma Tau Delta was founded in 1924 at Dakota Wesleyan University, and now has over 8,500 members inducted annually. I want to make everyone aware of the outstanding website www.english.org. You can find everything on the website from access to regional/national newsletters to 2010 convention information. Many, many, many kudos to Elfrida (Elfi) Gabriel, the Sigma Tau Delta Website Facilitator, for the beautiful website makeover.

This year, I want each and every chapter in the High Plains to be involved. A goal of mine is to get into contact with each chapter to how we can help you become even more active. Please feel free to email me with any concerns, suggestions, or just a simple HI. Again, welcome everyone and I hope to see you all in St. Louis at the 2010 Sigma Tau Delta International Convention.

Ashley Brossart, SR ashley.brossart@my.minotstateu.edu

Hi everyone! I'm Randi Dockter the New Associate Student Representative for the High Plains Region. I grew up in Minot, North Dakota and now am a senior at Minot State University. My home town, with 37,000 people, is a little bigger than Ashley's.

I am also very excited to be a member of Sigma Tau Delta. I am interested in a career working for a publishing house or proofreading for a writer. I know to some people this sounds a little dull, but I pride myself on doing work that I value, and I believe that this country was founded with words and that words and books will help everyone.

I hope that you all have a great year, and please feel free to contact either Ashley or me, anytime.

ASR Randi Dockter: squigly51@yahoo.com



L to R: Ashley and Randi

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SIGMA TAU DELTA
INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY

Hello From the Board of Directors

I am Gloria Hochstein, and some of you may know me as the Chair of the 2009 Convention in Minneapolis in March. I have been the Midwestern Regent for the past three years. I have been asked to serve as the acting High Plains Regent for the next few months. I was raised in SW Minnesota on a farm just a few miles from the South Dakota border (where my mother still lives), and I earned my BA in English from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD, so I proudly claim my connections and great affinity with the Great Plains. Please feel free to email me with any questions or comments: HOCHSTGJ@uwec.edu.

As a Regent, one of my goals is to create more opportunities for students and to encourage participation in the opportunities that exist. Here are four such opportunities:

1. Convention Presentations and Awards: Consider submitting a paper for the Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, March 17-20, 2010 (Riverfront Hyatt Regency). At the convention, we give

awards of over \$6,500 for critical papers and creative works. Note that these awards are for works PRESENTED at the convention, but judging is based on the original submitted material. The deadline for the convention submissions will be late October/early November. Why not work on your papers and creative works over the summer? Sigma Tau Delta is moving to an all-electronic convention submission system in the next few months, so follow the submission instructions that will be posted at www.english.org.

2. Common Reader Awards: For the past two years, we have NOT given out convention awards for the best papers on the common reader (up to \$150 each) because we haven't received papers on the common reader! Here is your opportunity to get a head start on reading and writing about the 2010 Common Reader: *Song for Night* by Chris Abani. At the very least, Abani's novella will be your most powerful summer read.

3. Scholarships: Did you know that Sigma Tau Delta gives out more than \$65,000 annually in scholarships, awards, and grants, including a couple of scholarships worth \$2,500 to \$4,000 to the students who win them?

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Hello from the Board of Directors...Continued

Did you know that sometimes there are only a few applicants for some of the scholarships? Consider applying for some of the numerous awards, grants, scholarships, and internships. The deadline for applications for most of the awards and scholarships is October 30th. See the website at www.english.org for application information.

4. Regents' Common Reader Award is a separate award category given by individual Regents to chapters which does not require you attend the convention. The Regents' Common Reader Award is a chance for your chapter members to decide for yourselves what to think of Chris Abani's *Song for Night*. As acting High Plains Regent, I invite individual chapters to organize and host a local event or activity around this text before February 15, 2010, and to apply for award money AFTER your event. Up to four chapters from the High Plains Region may receive awards of \$50. In order to apply, a chapter must submit the following three documents, postmarked or emailed on or before March 1, 2010:

- A cover letter, signed by the chapter sponsor (or sent from the sponsor's email address), confirming that the activity or event took place,
- A narrative, not to exceed 500 words, describing the activity or event, and
- A list of all participating persons or groups.

open to all active High Plains Region chapters of Sigma Tau Delta. It is completely separate from convention submissions. Results will be announced simultaneously at the convention and by email. The Regents hope that this award will be a way for chapters in each region to share a convention-related experience even if they are not able to travel to St. Louis. We hope it will encourage creative, text-based activities and events. And, lastly, we hope it will give space to reflect on the power of language both in our own lives and in the lives of others.

Gloria J. Hochstein, Acting High Plains Regent
HOCHSTGJ@uwec.edu
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Wisconsin-Eau Claire,
105 Garfield Ave. Eau Claire, WI 54702-4004



There is a wisdom of the head,
and a wisdom of the heart.

Charles Dickens

The Regents' Common Reader Award is

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CONVENTION AWARDS for submitted works presented at the 2009 Sigma Tau Delta Convention:

Convention Awards for Critical Essays on World or British Literature or Critical Theory

\$500, 1st place: "The Carnavalesque in Medieval Drama: A World Turned 'Inside Out'" by **Kathleen Hynes**, College of New Jersey NJ

\$300, 2nd place: "The Same from Many Sides: Husserlian Intersubjectivity and Faulkner's Use of Multiple Narrators in *As I Lay Dying*" by **Tamara Moellenberg**, Azusa Pacific University CA

\$150, 3rd place: "Cannibalism and Postcoloniality in Angela Carter's *The Infernal Desire Machines of Doctor Hoffman*" by **Dan Kenzie**, Western Michigan University MI

\$75, Honorable Mention: "Beyond: Rumi's Persian Poetry" by **Amanda Utzman**, Southern Utah University UT

Convention Awards for Critical Essays on American Literature and Film

\$500, 1st place: "Charlotte Temple's Fall from Grace: A Painful Lesson about Inaction" by **Kimberly Anderson**, St. Norbert College WI

\$300, 2nd place: "Frederick Winterbourne: A Study" by **Hannah Palmer**, Samford University AL

\$150, 3rd place: "Guys Gone Girls Gone Wild" by **Catherine Docken**, Luther College IA

\$75, Honorable Mention: "To Sympathize with All Dark Affections": Blackness and the 'Other' in "The Minister's Black Veil" by **Penelope Ingram**, Chapman University CA

Convention Awards for Original Poetry

\$500, 1st place: "Hooks and Lines" by **Maia Elgin**, Luther College IA

\$300, 2nd place: "Beneath the Floorboards" by **Ashley Sims**, Baker University KS

\$150, 3rd place: "This is How it Goes" by **Brianna Lichtenauer**, Baker University KS

\$75, Honorable Mention: "Reflections Made in Nature: A Pastoral Memoir" by **Jillian M. Phillips**, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire WI

Convention Awards for Creative Non Fiction:

\$500, 1st place: "Becoming My Mother" by **Jennifer Veilleux**, Western Carolina University NC

\$300, 2nd place: "The Overall Dream: Grandpa Over All" by **Alicia Ann Dallman**, Nebraska Wesleyan University NE

\$150, 3rd place: "Losing One to Gain Another" by **Josie Sawyer**, Furman University NC

\$75, Honorable Mention: "Sophia" by **Renee E. Wolfhope**, Franklin Pierce University NH

Convention Awards for Original Fiction or Drama:

\$500, 1st place: "Magic Tricks" by **Parker White**, University of Alabama AL

\$300, 2nd place: "The Things That Separate" by **Caitlin Murphree**, Samford University AL

\$150, 3rd place: "Cicada Wind" by **Tracey Swan**, Chapman University CA

\$75, Honorable Mention: "Falling Snow" by **Ashley D. Saari**, Franklin Pierce University NH

Convention Awards for Works Best Representing the Convention Theme of Reflections

\$150: "Legacy" poetry by **Jessica Soine**, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire WI

\$150: "Talking About What Matters: Reflections of a Louisiana Native" poetry by **April C. Honaker**, Louisiana Tech University LA

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Better World Books Drive

By Stephanie Schiefelbein, Student Advisor

The Sigma Tau Deltan's Guide to Running a Better World Books Drive
Sigma Tau Delta has entered into a national partnership with Better World Books, an organization that sponsors collegiate book drives to fund global literacy and green initiatives.

Continue reading to find out how your chapter can participate in this worldwide effort.

From Book Drives to Better Lives in Six Steps!

1. Get familiarized with Better World Books, their nonprofit global literacy partners, and their mission by checking out www.betterworldbooks.com.
2. If you want to find out if there is another group running a book drive on your campus and/or you want to get your chapter started with this fundraiser/book drive, email ReUseFirst@BetterWorldBooks.com!
3. After emailing Better World Books, you will be contacted by an Account Representative who will act as your contact person throughout the entire book drive process and help you with all your questions!
4. Each chapter will have access to its own online portal to order supplies, ship books (at no cost to your chapter!), and view an environmental impact summary of your book drive on campus.
5. Choose one of the five global literacy partners to whom you want your book drive to impact and have a packing or planning party—up to \$50.00 for food and beverage reimbursed with receipts (per drive on your campus).
6. Run your book drive and have fun—advertise, place collection bins in high traffic areas around campus, collect books, prescreen books (if you elected the fundraising option), and pack and ship the books.

Helpful Hints and Reminders:

- Identify yourself as a chapter belonging to Sigma Tau Delta.
- Your chapter can decide to participate in the book drive as a fundraiser to collect money back per each acceptable book that you send in.
- If your chapter is small, don't worry because your Account Representative will know if there are other organizations available to help your chapter, such as a Sigma Tau Delta chapter from a neighboring college.
- The best time to collect acceptable books is during finals week/textbook buyback.
- Try to send acceptable books (college books less than 5 years old and has a valid ISBN #). The books that do not fit this category can be donated locally (ask your Account Rep for ideas, i.e. Goodwill, prisons, etc.).
- Try soliciting books from professors, especially English professors.

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St. Louis, Here We Come!

To St. Louis we will go for the 2010 Sigma Tau Delta International Convention. My last trip to St. Louis was over 1020 straight miles in a bus - a bus with 8 seats, 16 students (10 of whom were girls with shoe-stuffed luggage), and one dog. Needless to say, I could have used this article and this information on what you must see in St. Louis.

Anheuser Busch St. Louis Brewery, opened in 1852, has many of the original architectural gems still visible. Through its corporate foundation and community outreach efforts, the company gave away \$13 million in the St. Louis area last year. The building sits on 142 acres of land, approximately 1,655,280 square feet. A tour is offered every ten minutes. The hours are Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with the tour lasting 1 ½ hour. Admission is free and ends with free drinks. The brewery is located 3.24 miles away from the Hyatt Regency Riverfront. On March 4, 2009, a four foot, 160 pound Clydesdale colt was born at the new breeding farm near Boonville, MO. "We're hoping he'll grow to be six feet tall so he can join the eight-horse hitch in another four years." said Jim Poole, general manager of Clydesdale Operations for Anheuser-Busch.

The Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis is a masterpiece of art and history. Artisans, craftsmen, stonecutters, and masons spent almost a century creating this incomparable church. There are 42 million pieces of glass used in 83,000 square feet of mosaic art, created by 20 artists over a span of 75 years. Please call (314) 373-8240 or (314) 373-8241 or email tours@cathedralstl.org for tour reservations and confirmation.

The Gateway Arch is America's tallest national park monument, standing at 630 feet above downtown and the Mississippi River. Each year, approximately one million visitors ride trams to the top of the Arch. The trams have been in operation for over 30 years, traveling a total of 250,000 miles and carrying over 25 million passengers. The Gateway Arch is .47 miles away from our hotel. The tour is \$10.00 a person and takes at least one hour. The hours are 9:20 a.m. to 5:10 p.m.

Get a bird's-eye view of beautiful St. Louis on the St. Louis Skyline tour or, for the more adventuresome, take the longer Explore St. Louis tour on a helicopter. Tours star at \$35 and run from 10:00 a.m. until sunset. The helicopter office is located directly below the Gateway Arch. There is a minimum of 2 passengers and a maximum of 3 passengers. Keep your ticket from the helicopter tour and save \$5 on a bike rental.



*the Gateway Arch
St. Louis, Missouri*



*Busch Stadium
St. Louis, Missouri*

Alpha Delta Kappa—University of Denver

Most campus organizations strive to keep students interested. The Alpha Delta Kappa chapter of Sigma Tau Delta strives to keep up with its interested students.

In only its second term since reactivation and in its first full year of active membership headed by a functioning executive board, Sigma Tau Delta at the University of Denver has exceeded all expectations, promoting campus- and community-wide engagement among its 22 active members—nine of whom are new, 2009-10 inductees.

But DU's chapter has even bigger numbers to boast.

1200. That's the approximate number of novels, periodicals, children's books, manuals, reference materials, and miscellaneous literature the Alpha Delta Kappa chapter collected over roughly three weeks during the Sigma Tau Delta national book drive this January. Nearly 600 of those items were returned to Better World Books and the Books for Africa project, while hundreds more await distribution by Alpha Delta Kappa to various literacy centers, shelters, and children's health clinics throughout Colorado.

200,000. That's the number of people who voted to name the Rocky Mountain Conservatory Theatre as the "Kids Pages" Best Place for Families 2008 in the Best Theatre Classes category. This year, Alpha Delta Kappa members volunteered at this "theatre for youth, by youth."

1. "One child at a time." That's the philosophy of the Children's Literacy Center—an organization that "builds a life of success for children through a foundation for literacy" by providing one-to-one tutoring for children reading below grade level. Outside of their national book drive tally, Alpha Delta Kappa members donated an additional five crates of picture books and young adult literature to the Children's Literacy Center. President Michelle Matlock was recognized as a special guest at the Center's annual Vintner Dinner.

1270. That's the percentage increase in funds the Alpha Delta Kappa chapter netted this past school year alone—after expenses! This profit was accomplished without charging any participation fees or additional membership dues beyond the national standard.

And 13. Area 13. That's the moniker of the international award winning author Alpha Delta Kappa hosted on campus in February. 13 lectured to Sigma Tau Delta members, DU students, and the Denver community on both the creative process and aspects of metafiction before taking questions and participating in an exclusive book-signing.

With the 2009 new member induction convocation, officer elections, and English honors ceremony looming on the horizon, Sigma Tau Delta at DU has much to look forward to and much to celebrate. Under the leadership of President Michelle Matlock, Vice President Matthew Watson, Secretary/Historian Jeffrey Moser, Treasurer Crystal Morales, Graduate Mentor Denis Illige-Saucier, and Faculty Sponsor Linda Bensel-Meyers, the Alpha Delta Kappa chapter has fortified a foundation for continued success and English scholarship at the University of Denver.

Michelle Matlock
President, Alpha Delta Kappa
chapter
Sigma Tau Delta
303-840-5907
mmatlock@du.edu



Greetings from our National Student Advisor

This is Stephanie Schiefelbein and I am excited to serve in the second year of my term as the National Student Advisor for Sigma Tau Delta. I am a native of Minnesota, I am pursuing a double major in English-literature and Music-liberal arts at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, and I am proud to call the Midwestern Region my home. This year, the Midwestern Region not only held a Regional Conference in Missouri, but the region was also host of the 2009 International Convention at the Hyatt Regency in Minneapolis, Minnesota this past March. The Midwest is truly an outstanding region.

As Student Advisor for my second term, I want to encourage all of you to participate in Sigma Tau Delta regionally, as well as nationally. Check out the website for scholarship, award, and internship opportunities; submit articles to your regional newsletter; start your chapter's Better World Books drive; and get to know your student leaders, the Student Representatives and Student Advisors. As student leaders, it is our responsibility and our duty to represent the student members of Sigma Tau Delta. There is an average of 8,000 new members inducted into Sigma Tau Delta each year and only twelve student leaders, so it is crucial that communication is maintained between us. We want to hear from you; we want to represent your voices as best as we are able. And communication is the key to ensuring that those opinions and ideas are heard.

So, I encourage you to email us at sigma-tau-delta-student-leaders@googlegroups.com or me directly at schiefsa@uwec.edu. Let us know if you have comments, suggestions, questions, ideas, or if you want to get more involved by serving on the Student Leadership Committee. Even though Sigma Tau Delta members span across the entire United States and beyond, we are all still members of Sigma Tau Delta, and that common bond creates a community among us, a community that I want to ensure stays strong through communication and participation.

Stephanie Schiefelbein
National Student Advisor

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*Fox Theatre
St. Louis, Missouri*

Rent bicycles or a quad cycle for a leisurely ride along the Bike St. Louis trails or the newly restored Riverfront Trail. The quad cycle is a four-wheeled bicycle with two bench seats that can seat up to 6 people. Helmets and trail maps are included with each rental. Look for the bike rental office on the Riverfront directly below the Grand Staircase of the Gateway Arch. The bicycles start at \$15 per hour. The small quad cycle is \$20 per hour and the large quad cycle is \$25 per hour. The hours are Fridays through Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Step back in time and visit the Missouri History Museum. View St. Louis's history through photographs, memorabilia, first-person narratives, and more. The museum has displays featuring the Dred Scott case, which upheld slavery, the 1904 World's Fair held at Forest Park, a replica of Charles Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis plane, and many other exhibits. Allow one hour for the standard exhibits and more time for the special exhibits. Hours are Tuesday from 10am to 8pm and Wednesday through Monday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This museum is 16.2 miles away from the Hyatt Riverfront. A quick way to get there is on the MetroLink.

Another must see museum is the St. Louis Art Museum. View art from around the globe and from every time period. Plan at least two hours for this museum. Hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on Fridays. This museum is located 7.2 miles away from the Hyatt Riverfront, and a great way to get there is also on the MetroLink.

On April 10, 2006, the Cardinals opened their new 46,000 seat retro-style downtown ballpark. Ballpark tours are offered from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The tours depart from Gate 5 and last one hour. Tours include stops at the following: a Party Room, the Redbird Club, the Press Box, the Cardinals Club, and the Cardinals Dugout. Rates are \$10 for adults. Tickets must be purchased at the stadium the day of the tour. The Busch Stadium is 0.37 miles from the Hyatt Regency Riverside.

There are numerous ways of transportation in St. Louis. One great way to get around is with the MetroLink, a light rail train system that runs from Lambert International Airport to the downtown area. The train runs approximately every 30 minutes. The closest boarding station to the Hyatt Regency is the Union Station MetroLink. This station will get you to each of the museums along with numerous other must sees.

Obviously, there are way too many things to do in St. Louis. The hotel, Hyatt Regency Riverfront, is absolutely beautiful, as is the gorgeous city of St. Louis. I hope to see you all in St. Louis.

Ashley Brossart
Student Representative, High Plains Region
Minot State University, Minot, North Dakota

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Willa Cather Foundation Support

On Saturday, April 25th, the Hastings College chapter of Sigma Tau Delta seized the opportunity to help the Willa Cather Foundation during its annual spring conference in Red Cloud, Nebraska. The conference is both an academic forum and community event for Cather fans, celebrating the life of Nebraska's most well-known and cherished author. Willa Cather, who moved to Red Cloud as a child and lived there until becoming a student at the University of Nebraska, is best known for her novels showcasing prairie life, *My Antonia* and *Oh Pioneers!*, which are heavily influenced by her early years in Red Cloud—then a bustling prairie hub, now a town with a population of less than 1,500.

Sigma Tau Delta members and faculty sponsors as well as members of Hastings College's Psi Theta Epsilon fraternity travelled to the beautifully restored Red Cloud Opera House, now the home of the Cather Foundation, to help set up the dinner for the foundation's Board of Governors. The enthusiastic crew began to transform the ballroom by arranging the tables and chairs as well as setting the places for the members with silverware, glass, and linen—and along the way, mastered the useful skill of properly producing a tri-fold napkin. By the end, one could not tell the difference between our work and that of a trained crew of culinary servers—the room was immaculately set.

The event allowed Sigma Tau Delta to support the local literary community and help celebrate a regional author who had a tremendous impact on the literary world far beyond Red Cloud and Nebraska. We were excited about our chance to lend a hand to the Cather Foundation, to experience the historic town, and to bond with the Cather enthusiasts that were in attendance. Our chapter hopes to continue the relationship with the Cather Foundation to help celebrate Willa Cather.

Bryan Primrose
co-president of Alpha Alpha Psi Chapter
Hastings College, Hastings, Nebraska

Sigma Tau Delta Awards

Sigma Tau Delta offers numerous awards, scholarships, grants, and internships to qualified students, faculty sponsors, and chapters. Below is a list of important dates and application due dates.

AWARDS

These awards are given annually in 5 areas: writing, teaching, performance, conference paper presentation, and constructing a website. Our Central Office sends out award information to each chapter in September. You can also download the forms from the Sigma Tau Delta website. www.english.org

Chapter Awards

- Outstanding Chapter Award- October 30
- Outstanding Literary Arts Journal Award- October 30
- Chapter Website Award- November 30
- Service Awards- October 30

Individual Awards

- Student Leadership Award (**NEW**)- October 30
- Scholarship Application Awards
 - Delta Award- October 30
 - Elaine W. Hughes Outstanding Chapter Sponsor Award- November 30
 - P.C. Somerville Awards for Future Teachers- October 30
- Isabel Sparks President's Awards
 - Scholarly Paper Awards- October 30
 - Individual Website Awards- November 30

SCHOLARSHIPS

Sigma Tau Delta offers thousands of dollars in scholarships for members. Chapters may nominate three members to apply for each

of the Junior, Senior, Graduate and Study Abroad Scholarships. Please check the website for further information regarding each and every scholarship offered.: www.english.org

- Junior Scholarship- October 30
- Senior Scholarship- October 30
- Graduate Scholarship- October 30
- Henry Regnery Endowed Scholarship- October 30
- Sigma Tau Delta Scholarship- due October 30
- Sigma Tau Delta Study Abroad Scholarships- Due October 30 and March 30
- Sigma Tau Delta Summer Program Scholarships- Due March 30

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.

- Grants- October 30

INTERNSHIPS

Sigma Tau Delta also offers three internships for members. The details for each of the internships are listed on our website.

www.english.org

- Regnery Publishing, Inc.
 - Summer- January 30
 - Fall- May 30
 - Spring- October 30
- Better World Books- February 15, 2010
- Penguin Group (USA) Internship