

Sigma Tau Delta

Midwest Regional Newsletter Spring 2005

Greetings from your Regent

One of the privileges that I have as the Midwest Regent is serving on the Board of Directors of Sigma Tau Delta, which is made up of the elected Executive Committee and one representative from each of the regions. I am pleased to state that each of the six regions is thriving. Consequently, the organization as a whole is likewise flourishing in both its finances and its vitality. According to Bil Johnson, the Executive Director, we currently have 634 active chapters, 11 of which are newly chartered and 3 of which have been reactivated. Likewise, extensive work has been done to establish a high school honor society under the auspices of Sigma Tau Delta, and the new organization—the National English Honor Society (NEHS)—should be officially established in September 2005.

Turning to the Convention, which directly followed the Board meeting, my sense from students was that the event was a success. There were approximately 130 chapters represented, and I heard some excellent student papers ranging from William Blake to Henry James to the value of Diagramming Sentences—and there were numerous other concurrent sessions on a variety of other topics. The Student Representatives organized a Leadership Workshop that was particularly informative, providing ideas on things such as Chapter Activities and Fundraising. This proved invaluable for many of the Chapter officers who attended who felt that they came away with some useful tips and ideas. And, of course, we were fortunate to have the likes of Henri Cole, Jamaica Kincaid, and Peter Hessler as our guest readers. All were well received by the students, and each was very personable and gracious in his/her interaction with the students—and I think the students made a significant impact on each of them.

Finally, I would like to extend an opportunity to promote more interaction between chapters in

our region. Through the fall of 2005, I would like to encourage any chapter in the region to work with at least two other chapters in organizing a joint activity. This could be a simple social gathering or a service project or a scholarly event. To this end, I would be willing to offer \$35 to each of the three or more chapters involved in the event, money that could be used to help off-set the cost of refreshments or materials for a particular project. All I would need is a brief letter from each of the chapter presidents describing the event, a list of individual members in attendance from each chapter, and verification from each of the chapter sponsors. Similarly, any chapter that would like to organize a “mini-conference” should contact me about the possibility of some seed monies.

This is just a brief overview of where the organization stands currently. If you have any questions or need anything, I am at your service.

Sincerely,

Todd Martin
Midwest Regent
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Important Date: May 30, 2005
Last day to submit [Service Award applications](#).

Sigma Tau Delta's Service Award is designed to honor chapters with exemplary community service projects and to benefit the agencies served by those chapters. The Society will make a limited number of awards, each of which will consist of a plaque for the chapter and a contribution of up to \$200 to the agency.

Winning a Service Award is a fantastic way for your chapter to continue its contribution to a worthwhile cause, and all chapters that have performed some service for their communities are encouraged to apply.

Greetings from your SR

At our most recent convention in Kansas City, MO, I was elected to serve as Student Representative for the Midwest Region. For the past year, our Student Representative has been Anne Thompson of Luther College, and we wish her all the best as she continues her studies.

I'm currently a graduate student at UWEC, and I'm very involved in the English organizations on our campus. I serve as the PR/Membership officer for my local chapter, Theta Zeta. I'm also working as a research assistant on a project entitled "Shakespeare in the Schools," where I've directed/acted in an adaptation of *Midsummer Nights Dream* for our local middle and high schools. In addition, I serve as the lead organizer for the graduate branch of our annual English Festival. We're in our tenth year of the Fest, and I've been planning a graduate conference entitled "War of the Words: Gender & Science Fiction." It's been very exciting, and I've gotten the opportunity to work with many great people in our field.

Last year, I served our region as Associate Student Representative—the experience was wonderful! As I mentioned at the business meeting in Kansas City, I'm very interested in working to improve chapter communication. Our previous SR, Anne Thompson, had the idea to start a "Video Journal" to be sent around the Region, one chapter at a time. Each chapter could introduce their members and say a bit about the projects and events they sponsor. I think this would be a great way for our chapters to get to know one another, and I'd be happy to have copies made once everyone has contributed.

Todd, Dan, and I are also very interested in holding a regional conference in the Fall of 2006. My school, the University of WI-Eau Claire would enjoy hosting the conference. Watch for more details in the next newsletter.

Finally, I'd like to encourage you to contact me at any time. I'm interested in hearing your plans and ideas!

All the best~
Traci

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SR-Midwest Region

Visit our National
Website for important
news and information
www.english.org

Greetings from your AER

Greetings! I had a wonderful time in Kansas City, meeting many of you was a real pleasure, and an affirmation of what it means to be an English major and a Sigma Tau Delta member. I was impressed with many of the panels and presentations I attended, and am already looking forward to next year's convention in Portland. It's never too early to think about panel/paper ideas; I know I'm already formulating ideas relating to the conventions theme: Green.

I was elected as Associate Student Representative for the Midwest Region at the national convention. I am very excited to represent such great group of people. I've been attending school non-stop at UWEC since the summer of 2003 after a three-year break. Creative Writing has always been a major interest to me, but it took me a while to realize that I could actually major in it. Ever since, I've been working hard on creative pieces ranging from poetry to novellas. I am a minor in Science and Technical Communication/Writing. Sci-Tech Writing and creative writing are two very different entities, but I feel that they help me understand how to write on many different levels, and strengthen my abilities. (Although I admit I'll never be an editor.) Eventually I hope to get a PhD and teach at the adult level. Besides the classes I take, I am very active in the English organizations on my campus: I am the treasurer of my local Sigma Tau Delta chapter; president (and founder) of SSTEWS—the sci-tech writing group on campus; an active member of The English Festival—a group that hosts an English conference every year; and an active member in NOTA—the creative writing group on campus.

Those of you present for the elections heard me discuss service projects. For me service projects are a very important part of the Sigma Tau Delta experience. Not only can service projects give your chapter goals and put the Sigma Tau name

in the sight of more people, service projects can also greatly impact the local community in many positive ways. You might even help the international community by participating in service projects that help people in countries far from our own. The opportunities are available for you to do great things in your community. Sometimes an opportunity might become available simply by chance, so keep your eyes and ears open. I would like to hear from you to see what things your own chapter has done, or ideas that have come up, but possibly not finalized.

One more thing I would like to mention is an underused resource, the Sigma Tau Delta Bulletin Boards. These are available on the Sigma Tau Delta website. Simply go to the 'News' button on the side, and click on 'Bulletin Boards'. All you need to do is register, a handle and an email address is all you need, and click away. There are many different boards, and each region has their own section. This would be a great place to share information to many people at one time, and in some instances might be a better option than email. I will post a message at least once a month during the school year on the Midwest board.

This is going to be a great year, and I look forward to sharing ideas, plans, and entertaining discussions with you.

Dan Hardy
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ASR-Midwest Region

Creative Non-fiction
Daniel Malanowski (Runner-up)
Rockhurst University

Poetry
Charles Salmons (Runner-up)
Northern Michigan University

Common Reader Competition
Stefanie Jochman
St. Norbert College

Outstanding Chapter Award
Marygrove College
Alpha Zeta Zeta

Project Grant Award
University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
Psi Beta

Cardinal Stritch University
Alpha Kappa

Regnery Scholarship
Rachel Linden Tinon
Huntington College

Junior Scholarship
Robert Folley
Luther College

Jennifer Remmele (runner up)
University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Mark your calendars now! The 2006 Annual Convention will be held from March 29th-April 2nd, 2006 at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower in Portland, OR. The theme of the convention is Green...

~GREEN~

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 / For wonder of his hew men hade, set in his semblaunt sene; he ferde as freke were fade; and oueral enker-**grene** / Bring with you all the Nymphes that you can heare both of the rivers and the forests **greene**: and of the sea that neighbours to her neare, al with gay girlands goodly wel beseene. / Our house is old, cold, and **green**. At night a kerosene lamp lights one large room. The others are braced in darkness, peopled by roaches and mice. / It's not easy being **green** / **Green** how I want you **green**. **Green** wind. **Green** branches / **Green** grow the rashes, O; **Green** grow the rashes, O / **Green** leaves on a dead tree is our epitaph--**green** leaves, dear reader, on a dead tree / Reptillian **green** the wrinkled throat, **Green** as a bough of yew the throat, **Green** as a bough of yew the beard; he bent his head, and so I smote / **Green** comes from blue, but it surpasses blue / Her **green** mind made the world around her **green** / **Green** is the night and out of madness woven / Farewell **green** fields and happy groves, where flocks have took delight / Those **green**-rob'd senators of mighty woods, tall oaks, branch-charmed by the earnest stars, dream, and so dream all night without a stir / Of a **green** evening, clear and warm, she bathed in her still garden, while the red-eyed elders watching, felt the basses of their beings throb / The **Green** Street Mortuary Marching Band marches right down **Green** Street and turns into Columbus Avenue where all the cafe table sitters at the cafe tables sit talking and laughing and looking right through it / All in **Green** went my love riding / The first **Green** night of their dreaming, asleep beneath the Tree, God said, "Let meanings move," and there was poetry . . .