

THE SOUTHERN GAZETTE

SPRING 2009 NEWSLETTER

SIGMA TAU DELTA HONOR SOCIETY

Welcoming Note from SR, Michal Roberson

Dearest Chapters of the Southern Region! Greetings! I am the newest Student Representative for the Southern Region, and it is my pleasure to be in your service! The 2009 Convention, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, was a completely new experience for me; therefore, I had no idea what opportunities and challenges it would bring forth.

Your Associate Student Representative, Jeniffer Smith, and I will be working very closely. We were roommates our first year of school at Blue Mountain College. The past three years, she and I have traveled the road paved specifically for aspiring English majors. One semester, we had the same exact class schedule! Our path will drastically diverge this fall as she finalizes her classes for Teacher's Education and the Program for Student Teaching. I will mosey along in my writing intensive courses and enjoy every minute that I am allowed to play around with adjectives and adverbs.

Our vision is pretty simple for this year. We are looking to strengthen the ties between our chapters and really focus on unity. We hope to break some ground so that the years to come will really bear good fruit. Jeniffer and I are devoted to serving this society, especially this region. Our lines are open to you and your suggestions, concerns, and ideas. This organization is something I really care about, and I hope that you are beginning to make Sigma Tau Delta a priority in your English

Department. Let's continue to dig in and to grow even if our type of digging happens to be with a pen. "Between my finger and my thumb/ The squat pen rests/ I'll dig with it." These are the earthy words of Seamus Heaney that have contributed to such a vision.

Thank you for taking time out for your chapter of Sigma Tau Delta. I look forward to working with you throughout the 2009-2010 session. Please, allow me to be of service to you!



Christina, Jeniffer, and Michal with Mary Tyler Moore Statue in Minneapolis, MN

A Word from a Graduating Senior

Christina Teel, Blue Mountain College

It's hard to believe that I am a senior and will soon be entering into "the world" apart from college. Hopefully I will be attending graduate school, so my schooling years aren't quite finished. All of my college experiences have been fulfilling and sometimes, well most of the time, very challenging. My three years

of being a member of Sigma Tau Delta have been filled with fun fellowship with my fellow Sigma Tau Delta comrades and with mentally stimulating challenges set by my English professors. I have enjoyed being a part of Sigma Tau Delta and look forward to the adventure of life ahead of me.

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- Red and Black boxes contain quotes and ideas from different chapters
- Information about hosting a conference on page 3
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A Word from Regent Roger Stanley

On behalf of our Southern chapters as a whole and your new, enthusiastic Southern Student Representative Michal Roberson, greetings at the end of another school year. From my perch at Union University in west Tennessee, we're grateful meteorologically (as well as for other reasons) that spring semester is ending; in contrast with the tornado of February 2008, the current term has been relatively disaster-free for our chapter and school.

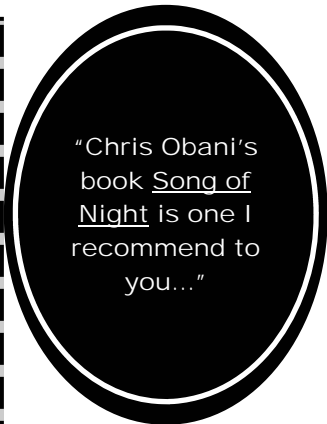
It was great to do a quick roll call of chapters in the Southern caucus at the Minneapolis Hyatt in March and see so many enthusiastic faces representing over thirty schools in our region on site. Thanks for indulging us as we conducted some speedy business regarding elections for student representative and Associate Student Representative: Jeniffer Smith now holds the latter position, and I appreciate Gary Smith of Pikeville College (KY) also, with his obvious enthusiasm and commitment to serve our organization.

Looking ahead, I hope to meet many of you in St. Louis next March as Sigma Tau

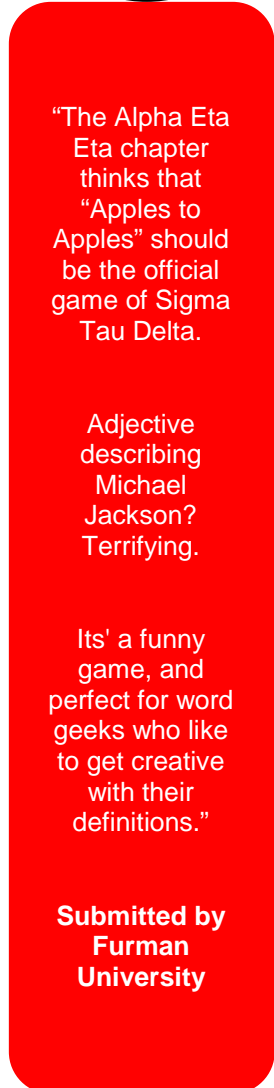
Delta convenes again, this time under the theme of "Storytellers." Chris Obani's book Song of Night is one I recommend to you as the official common reader for our gathering.

Left Bank bookstore; the efficient Metro elevated train from Lambert Airport to downtown; the cemetery where Tennessee Williams and Kate Chopin are buried; William S. Burroughs' longtime residence on Pershing Avenue; the Tivoli Theatre on Delmar Avenue where foreign and independent films are screened daily; The Pageant for live music: St. Louis is truly a city where great narratives are spun, so please plan to submit your work by the late November deadline and join the conclave in early March. Details about this are forthcoming.

And please do contact Michal, Jeniffer, or me as situations develop over the summer or in the fall which pertain to our great society—sincerely, truthfully, and designedly. We're here to troubleshoot for student members and faculty sponsors in the South, so let us hear from you!



"Chris Obani's book Song of Night is one I recommend to you..."



"The Alpha Eta Eta chapter thinks that "Apples to Apples" should be the official game of Sigma Tau Delta.

Adjective describing Michael Jackson? Terrifying.

Its' a funny game, and perfect for word geeks who like to get creative with their definitions."

**Submitted by
Furman
University**

The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga's Xi Alpha chapter recently hosted a national conference March 27-28, 2009. They had presenters come from as far away as California, St. Louis, New York City, and Utah, along with many presenters from around Tennessee and the Southeast. It was our first time putting on a conference and this is the first year in a long time our chapter has been active, so we are very proud of everything we have accomplished this semester. We will be hosting a second Annual Graduate and Undergraduate Student Conference from October 16-17 this fall and are very excited about it given the success we had this spring.
-Meghan O'Dea, University of Tennessee

Hosting a Local Conference

By: Kevin Brown, Lee University

Our chapter began what we refer to as a symposium at least six years ago, before I took over as sponsor. Since I have taken over as sponsor, I see several benefits to this event and would encourage every chapter to do something similar, no matter how small or large the scope. In brief, what we do is invite students from our school to present papers they've written for recent courses. We use the same length and deadline as the Sigma Tau Delta International Convention to encourage students to submit to it, as well. We also invite other local colleges and universities, though we do the event every year, regardless of whether or not other schools are able to come. When they do, the event becomes richer, as we are able to hear what types of work the other students are doing.

This idea of hearing other students' papers is one of the main reasons we host our symposium. When I was coming through college, before peer editing and writing centers, we never read or heard other students' papers, so we had no idea the level of our peers. Unfortunately, even with developments in writing pedagogy, students often write in a vacuum, as they are not given the opportunity to truly join the writing community by reading their work and hearing other writers' works. Thus, the only feedback they receive is when they turn the paper in. At our symposium, I have seen students exchange information on helpful sources and discuss structural concerns.

I have also seen students receive encouragement from professors from other colleges and universities or from professors from their own school whom they have never met.

This encouragement is not to be underestimated, as it also breaks student writers out of the idea that they only write for one reader, the professor, in one situation, the class. In this way, students begin to develop a stronger identity as a writer.

The other major benefit for students is that they receive practice in reading papers aloud in a conference setting. As admission to graduate schools becomes more competitive, more and more students are attending the International Convention and other undergraduate conferences. Unfortunately, we professors seldom give students the time in class to present their papers in a formal setting. Thus, when they arrive at larger conferences, they are at a loss as to how a conference works and what their role in it is. By connecting our symposium to the International Convention's specifications and deadline, we provide students an opportunity for a trial run before the convention, as we host our symposium a month or two before the International Convention.

Even if only a few students and professors are able to meet, there is still enough benefit to make it worthwhile. Our symposium actually began with a handful of students gathering in a casual setting to read their papers, and it turned into a symposium this year with roughly 20 readers and 30 people there supporting them. The students who later read in Minneapolis all pointed to their experience at our conference as solid preparation. It was an experience that was worth the effort and that we hope to expand to include other schools in the coming years.

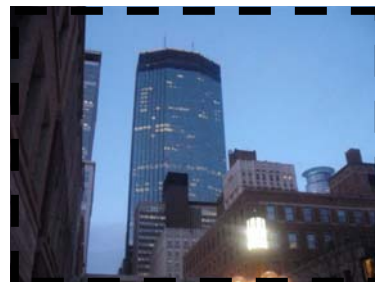


SkyWay in Minneapolis, MN

That is a good book which is opened with expectation and closed in profit.
-Amos Bronson Alcott

**Submitted by:
Piedmont College**

A library is a hospital for the mind.
-Anonymous



Minneapolis, Minnesota at Dusk

To St. Louis We Go!

Ashley Brossart, High Plains SR, Minot State University

To St. Louis we will go for the 2010 Sigma Tau Delta International Convention. My last trip to St. Louis was in a bus. A bus with 8 seats, 16 students (10 which were girls with shoe-stuffed luggage), over 1020 straight miles, and one dog. Needless to say, this first must-see in St. Louis would have been appreciated.

Anheuser Busch St. Louis Brewery was opened in 1852, with many of the original architectural gems still visible. Through its corporate foundation and community outreach efforts, they gave \$13 million in the St. Louis area last year. The building sits on 142 acres of land, which is approximately 1,655,280 square feet. On March 4, 2009, a four foot, 160lb Clydesdale baby boy 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. A tour is offered every ten minutes. The hours are Monday through Saturday 9am to 4pm and Sunday from 11:30am to 4pm with the tour lasting 1½ hours. Admission is free and ends with free drinks. The brewery is located 3.24 miles away from the Hyatt Regency Riverfront.

The Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis is a masterpiece of art and history. Artisans, craftsmen, stonemasons, 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 e-mail tours@cathedralstl.org for tour reservations and confirmation.

The Gateway Arch is America's tallest national park monument, standing 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 plan at least one hour for the tour. 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 great helicopter tour. Tours starting at \$35.00 and start at 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 \$5.00 on a bike rental.

Ride leisurely along the Bike St. Louis trails or the newly restored Riverfront Trail. There are both bicycles and quad-cycles. 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 cost of the bicycles start at \$15.00 per hour. The small quadcycle is \$20.00 per hour and the large quadcycle is \$25.00 per hour. The hours are Fridays through Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Take a 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 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 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Wednesday through Monday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. This museum is located 6.2 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 2 hours for this museum. Hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Whenever I am asked why Southern writers particularly have a penchant for writing about freaks, I say it is because we are still able to recognize one.

- Flannery O'Connor

**Submitted by:
Louisiana College**

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 11a.m. to 1 p.m. Note that 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 \$10.00 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 Riverfront.

There are numerous ways of transportation in St. Louis. As I mentioned before, a 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 Riverfront is called the Union Station MetroLink. This station will get you to each of the museums along with numerous other attractions.

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

A Closing Word

Jeniffer Smith, Southern Region ASR, Blue Mountain College

As this year winds down and projects and papers are hurriedly finished and turned in, I find that I am somewhat relieved as I reflect on what the year has taught me. First, I know, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that I can handle writing a twenty-five page essay—a pretty amazing feat for someone who is used to five-page essays and maybe one eight-page research paper. Second, I have learned how to relax a little bit and to not let the stress of life overwhelm me. Third, I recently learned that I can handle all of this and a couple of positions in Sigma Tau Delta, one of which includes writing an article for some sort of online newsletter.

I also find myself looking back about a month ago to the convention that was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. As a true Southern girl (northern Mississippi being the farthest north I've ever lived), the bitter cold shocked me, especially since the weather here in Blue Mountain had just turned a nice, warm sixty degrees. Another shocking factor was the way that the people in the "big city" seemed to live off of coffee and small pastries. Maybe there is some side effect from that which caused them to never really look us poor Mississippians in the face. Thankfully, the atmosphere at the convention was much more friendly and warm than that of the streets. I loved having so many people in one building ready to listen to the written word, whether it be creative or formal. I definitely encourage all of you to attend next year's convention in St. Louis. The experience, especially if you have never been, is worth it. Hope to see you there!

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Associate Student Representative
 Jeniffer Smith
Squirrel Girl
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CONTRIBUTING TO THE FALL EDITION OF THE GAZETTE

We are looking for poetry, Short Stories, Literary Articles, Written Experiences, Book Reviews, or fresh ideas from your chapter. We are open to all suggestions and helpful criticisms! We want the fall edition to be the best it can be! We anxiously await your emails!

SUBMISSIONS:

No later than September 15, 2009. Longer submissions should be between 500 and 700 words, and should be mailed to Michal Roberson (michalroberson@hotmail.com) or Jeniffer Smith (jsmith@bmc.edu).

