

Sigma Tau Delta Southern Gazette

Southern Region Fall 2004



In this Issue ...

From the
Student
Representative.

From the
Regent.

Chapter
Updates.

Book Drive.

From the Student Representative

Greetings to all Sigma Tau Deltans from the Southern Student Representative, Elizabeth Suergiu.

A year has passed and once more we look forward to convention. This year the site of the convention is the Westin Crowne Center in Kansas City, Missouri. The Crowne Center is a combination hotel and mall with stores, restaurants, a food court, and movie theater all adjacent to the main lobby. An enclosed walkway links the Crowne Center to Union Station, and Thai, Mexican, and steakhouse restaurants are all within walking distance.

The book drive is back in full

Continued on 2

Chapter Updates

The Mississippi State Xi Chapter had its first induction banquet in October of last year. We sponsored a used clothing and canned food drive for the Palmer Children's Home, a local charity. We are still getting our feet wet but hope to do more in the future.

Brad Vice

[Dr. Lisa Johnson became the new faculty advisor for the Chi Rho chapter of Sigma Tau Delta at Coastal Carolina University last Fall]. To increase our presence on campus this year, we are getting involved in celebrating Banned Books Week. Our theme is "Censorship Discriminates," and we are having a combination Read-Out and Festival, with students reading from banned books, a DJ

Continued on 2

From the Regent



Fall Greetings from your hurricane-weary" Regent: I usually make some mention of our Florida weather, being aware that the

Southern region is so large and diverse, but as you can see from my greeting above, it's a topic better left undiscussed.

Your student representative, Elizabeth Suergiu and I both returned a few weeks ago from the Fall board meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, which will be the host city for our 2005 convention in March. It is an exciting venue for a conference (jazz, barbeque, fountains, Truman Library, etc.), but it won't "happen for you" unless you begin planning. If you have attended in the past, you know that there will be at least 500 students interested in those things that interest you. There will be authors who will speak, meet with students and sign books. There will be readings of papers and original poetry and prose. And there will be fun. Now is the time to get ready, to get your finances organized and to revise or write a paper or organize a panel.

If your chapter has not attended in the past three years because of money, contact me as I may be able to give you some assistance.

Also, speaking as Chair of the Scholarship Committee, I remind you that it's not too late to apply for scholarships and awards (deadline October 30).

Continued on 2

So long as men can breathe or eyes can see...

swing. Last year we successfully raised hundreds of books and hundreds more dollars. All chapters are encouraged to bring books to help support this year's official charity recipient Kansas City Promise. Choosing a local literacy foundation is one of the ways Sigma Tau Delta gives back to its host community, and I and the entire Student Leadership council hope to meet and perhaps surpass last year's record.

As we settle into the Fall semester, I would like to encourage all sophomores and juniors in the Southern region to run for Student Representative. It has been both my honor and pleasure to serve as the Southern Student Representative for two years, but it is equally an honor and privilege to pass along this position to candidates of the Southern Region. Please remember that nominations will not be taken from the floor during the Southern Caucus; applicants must submit their paperwork ahead of time. Applications are available online at www.english.org.

The time to prepare scholarship packets, convention essays, and applications grows ever shorter. As you begin putting together your entries and submissions, remember that Missouri is a convergence of many forces. Steamboats brought visitors from many nations through the great waterways to people the towns of the Midwest. Abolitionists and slave-supporters fought their battles on the outskirts of towns. Native Americans fought for the preservation of their territory against the surging expansion. All of these voices are rooted in this land, spoken through the struggles, failures, and successes of our nation's early people.

Our theme this year is "unheard melodies." As we journey to Kansas City, it is worthy to remember the pioneer spirit which blazed the well-beaten trails. The promise and potential of the world are what drive the spirits of discovery and creativity. Never is this more true than in English. What voices are unheard until we give them form on the page?

I look forward to seeing all of you, and wish you a successful semester.

If you have an active chapter and think you might want to organize a regional or state conference, remember that it takes at least a semester of planning. Check out our handbook at the website; it provides a step-by-step procedure and contains much important information.

I hope to see many of you in Kansas City; I hope to see many of your scholarship applications. And in the meantime, I wish all of you a busy, productive, literary semester!

Lillian Schanfield, Southern Regent
Barry University, Miami

Continued from 1

playing banned or censored music, and posters created by faculty and various student organizations about the history of censorship across the disciplines with a special focus on how censorship or banning is used to silence minority viewpoints (women, people of color, sexual minorities, etc.). There will be a showing of the controversial film, "Y Tu Mama Tambien," in relation to BBW, and a faculty roundtable discussion of "Controversy in the Classroom," addressing the principle of academic freedom and the difficulty of introducing controversial subject matter in the classroom.

Dr. Lisa Johnson
Department of English
Coastal Carolina University

Over the past year, the University of Alabama in Huntsville's (UAH) Upsilon Mu Chapter has made its presence better known on campus. We had a very successful fundraiser—a book and bake sale—last year, which we are currently preparing for again this year. Another smaller-scale fundraiser we added a few years ago is our Valentine's Day raffle in which we sell chances to win chocolate and Shakespeare-related videos. The funds raised from the book and bake sale enable us to co-sponsor a Shakespeare festival at our university—the Shenandoah Shakespeare Express. Sigma Tau Delta assists by supplying ushers for this event, and we also provide a potluck dinner for the actors after the second evening's performance. We decided to add a dinner and theater night where we treated our members to an evening at a local theater. This was a great opportunity to thank

Contact Information:

Student Representative: Maylaurel11@aol.com
Regent: lschanfield@mail.barry.edu

So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

Continued from 2

our members for their hard work throughout the year.

Heather Byland
President
Upsilon Mu Chapter
University of Alabama in Huntsville

STD Conference Checklist

___ **November.** Consider early submissions. Remember that submissions will be read in the order they are received. Begin to consider nominations for sponsors and websites.

___ **November 25, 2003: Deadline for papers and panels.** All submissions for the Daytona 2004 Conference must be mailed. All submissions must be postmarked no later than this date.

___ **November 30, 2003: Deadline for Elaine W. Hughes Outstanding Sponsor Nominations.**

___ **November 30, 2003: Deadline for Outstanding Chapter Website Award application packets.**

___ **December-January.** Consider travel arrangement to and from Kansas City. Letters of acceptance will be sent via e-mail, so check online mailboxes periodically

___ **March 1, 2004: Deadline for submissions to the National Newsletter.**

___ **March 30, 2004: Deadline for Study Abroad Second Round application packets.**

___ **April 30, 2004: Deadline for all Rectangle Submissions.**

Elizabeth Suergiu

Book Drive 2004

Sigma Tau Delta offers its students the opportunity both to exercise their skills in English and to share their enthusiasm for the written word with the world. Part of English is fostering the same passion for literature which holds us as a society together. In this respect we are fortunate to have the opportunity to serve within our chapters and also through the national convention's book drive.

Last year our book drive was an unprecedented success, generating over three hundred books and two hundred dollars in revenue for charity. We look forward to similar success this year. Each chapter is asked to bring at least one book per person attending the convention. This is the minimum recommendation, but both the Student Reps and the Board encourage their chapters to host book drives on campus and in their local communities in the effort to increase our volume of books. Those who do not bring books are encouraged to donate one dollar per person in the chapter. Each year we choose a charity in our host city to be the recipient of our book drive. This year the organization we have chosen is Kansas City Promise, an organization that works in conjunction with other Kansas City literacy groups to acquire and distribute resources urgently needed in different communities. Some of the organizations benefiting from our book drive will be Whatsoever Community Center, a group that needs books for their community; Independence Academy, an alternative high school that needs books for their library and to give to students who cannot afford to purchase books; and Reach Out and Read, which supplies and reads books to sick children. You can find out more about Kansas City Promise by visiting their website http://www.pfc.org/promise_about.shtml. Check out their database to learn more about the organizations that they serve.

Because Kansas City Promise works with many types of literacy initiatives, all kinds of books are welcome. Bring as many books as you can, or make it a chapter project. However you choose to participate, know that what is at the core of this project is service to our hosting community. I hope this will be our most successful book drive yet.

Elizabeth Suergiu

Barry University Department of English
11300 N.E. 2nd Ave
Miami Shores, FL 33161