

Southern Gazette

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- Apply for the Southern Regional Writing Contest
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SIGMA TAU DELTA

STD Offers Help to Katrina Victims

Just a few short weeks ago, Hurricane Katrina ripped through areas of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, destroying everything that lay in her path. As millions of people are starting to rebuild their lives, Sigma Tau Delta would like to offer its condolences and extend relief to those who have been affected by Katrina.

Although a few hours inland, parts of the

University of Alabama, where I attend, were hit hard by Katrina. Large oak trees were uprooted, roofs blew off houses, and some power outages lasted for over a week. But we were the lucky ones. Soon, the devastating effects of Katrina on parts of the Gulf Coast began to be relayed to the rest of the world.

Sigma Tau Delta began to realize that students from

all over the Gulf Coast were displaced and in need of aid. After discussing possible ways to help, all of the Student Representatives, along with the Student Advisors, contacted all schools within the tri-state area that had a Sigma Tau Delta chapter. We are currently assessing the best ways in which to offer assistance, not only to the chapters who were directly affected by the hurricane, but also to the

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WEBSITE SPOTLIGHT: THE SCHOLARSHIP PAGE

Have you ever been surfing the web and gotten one of those annoying pop-up ads that say "Congratulations, you've just won \$1,000?" If you are anything like me, you close the pop-up window as fast as your mouse can click. But...imagine, if just by clicking on the ad, you could actually have a real shot at winning the money. What would you do then? My guess is that you might be a little more inclined to click on the website.

Well, congratulations, today is your lucky day.

Just by clicking on this link www.english.org/scholars_hips.shtml, and filling out an application, I can assure you that you will at have a good shot at winning at least \$500. So take a chance and find out how easy it can be to win a serious amount of dough.

The website above provides details about the various scholarships and gives you information and guidelines about applying.

STD offers several scholarships, including the Junior Scholarship, the

Senior Scholarship, the Graduate Scholarship, the Study-Abroad Scholarship, and the Regnery Scholarship, each valued from \$500-\$2500!!!! Every member of STD is eligible for at least one of these different scholarships.

We are all lucky to be part of an organization that gives back to its members. Each year, STD gives away over \$30,000 to qualified students just like yourself. There is only one catch.....

YOU HAVE TO APPLY!

GREETINGS FROM THE SOUTHERN REGENT



I'm delighted to be greeting you in this second newsletter issue edited by your Student Representative Lauren Elliott, whom you elected last Spring at the Kansas City, Missouri convention. Lauren, as you can tell from this newsletter, is enthusiastic, responsible and so competent. I've really enjoyed working with her, especially as this will be my last term as the Southern Regent.

PLAN FOR THE PORTLAND, OREGON CONFERENCE:

Lauren and I are about to head out for Portland, Oregon for our Fall Board meeting, and by the time you are reading this, we will probably have returned. In part the meeting helps us pave the way for the convention in March, at which I hope many of you will be presenting papers and participating in sessions or panels.

It is not too early for you to begin planning your attendance: writing or polishing papers,

securing travel funds, organizing your chapter members. As usual, our convention committee has found an exciting city as site for our convention. If you have attended in the past, you know that there will be at least 500 student-participants interested in English, literature, theatre, writing, publishing, and all those things that unite us in Sigma Tau Delta. There will be well known 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 networking, sightseeing, and lots of fun!

DOES YOUR CHAPTER NEED FUNDS TO TRAVEL TO CONVENTION?

Each chapter seems to find different ways to funds members to the convention. In addition I'd like to offer \$200 to any chapter in our region that has not sent a delegate to the convention in the past three years. If your chapter qualifies, please notify me as soon as possible so that I can reserve these funds for you.

PLAN A LOCAL CONFERENCE:

My role as Regent is to offer you support, advice, and help. That also means some financial assistance. However, remember, that it does take about a year to organize a conference and requires a strong faculty sponsor and chapter membership. Our handbook (at the website) outlines the step-by-step how-to's as well as the benefits in great detail.

APPLY FOR AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS NOW

(Must be received by October 30th):

Let me also encourage everyone in our region to apply for individual as well as chapter scholarships and awards. Too many eligible students (as well as chapters) do not apply and assume that "other people" get these awards.

"It is not too early for you to begin planning your attendance [to convention]: writing or polishing papers, securing travel funds, organizing your chapter members."

MEET YOUR ASSISTANT STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Albert Cordero

My parents were one of the first Cuban families that fled Castro's communist Cuba during the early years of the revolution. Settling in Miami, they proceeded to have 5 children. Though my parents always attempted to instill in both my siblings and me the importance of an education, they were embarrassed by my loathing of school and my fascination with the stage. I commenced dance lessons at a very early age and no one was as surprised as me to discover that I was not only good, but very talented. At age twelve the Ford Foundation granted me a full scholarship to a local Miami ballet program affiliated with the New York City Ballet's official school—the School of American Ballet. During winter and spring, I was given the grand opportunity to learn and dance the classics (Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, Coppelia, to name

a but a few), summers were spent in New York City immersed in intense summer training sessions at School of American Ballet. Later I filled apprenticeships and danced professionally with American Ballet Theatre North Carolina Dance Theatre, Miami Ballet, Houston Ballet, and International Ballet both in the U.S. and abroad. I was always a voracious reader and during our busy touring season books were my constant companions on planes, hotel lobby's, busses, and dressing rooms. When my dance career was cut short due to ongoing personal problems, reading filled the void left by my loss of dance.

Later, as a fluke, I decided to take an evening, non-credit English class, at the University of Miami. Here I met my first mentor, Dr.

Mihoko Suzuki, who was instrumental in convincing me of whatever talent my current professors now see. In 2003, I transferred to Barry University where I was granted an academic scholarship, later I was elected as president of our local chapter of Sigma Tau Delta. Currently, I'm in my senior semester as an English major and upon graduation in December I intend to take several semesters off dedicating them to studying for the GRE's, along with plans for extensive traveling, reading, and writing before applying for several prestigious graduate programs in both Florida and Georgia. My literary interests are broad and varied, but I have a particular interest in the English renaissance, Women's studies, comparative religions, Baroque art, and gender studies.



Albert Cordero

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Speaking as chair of this committee, let me assure you that we've created an even playing field. There is no advantage to being from a large rather than a small chapter or school, and the scholarships

are worth thousands of dollars. Do yourself a favor now and check the website for the updated information and application forms.

I hope to see many of you in Portland in March; I hope to receive many of your scholarship applications; I hope that your chapter plans exciting literary activities. In the meantime, I wish all of you a busy, productive, literary semester!

REGENT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Lilian Schanfield

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Southern Regional Writing Contest: The 2006

Common Reader By: Regent Lillian Schanfield

Submit to the
Regional Writing
Contest! Apply by
November 25, 2005

The Common Reader for the 2006 Sigma Tau Delta annual convention is Mark Salzman's book, *True Notebooks* (Knopf 2003), which describes his experiences teaching writing workshops in a juvenile detention facility for violent offenders. It is a stimulating "read" that demonstrates the power of writing in the lives of the violent juvenile inmates at the center of Salzman's book. If you attend the convention, you will have the opportunity to

hear the author discuss his work.

As you may be aware, there is a convention award for the best presentation based on the common reader. Separately, the Southern Region will confer a prize of \$100 to the top essay and several \$50 runner-up awards written about the Common Reader. The recipient of the national convention award is not eligible for these Southern awards. Results will be announced after the convention.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Your Submission:

- * May be in any genre accepted at the convention
 - * Must conform to all convention submission guidelines for that genre
 - * Must be accompanied by a cover sheet identical to the convention cover sheet
 - * Must be mailed to Dr. Lillian Schanfield, English Department, Barry University, 11300 N.E. Second Avenue Miami, Florida 33161
- Or Emailed to:
lschanfield@mail.barry.edu

DEADLINE: November 25, 2005

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chapters who have taken in displaced Sigma Tau Delta members from schools that were forced to shut down.

In attempts to help displaced students, Southern Regent Lillian Schanfield has offered some financial assistance to students who have been displaced and would like to attend the National Convention in Portland, Oregon. Also, local Sigma Tau

Delta chapters from across the country have joined in the relief efforts, donating items and raising money for the Hurricane victims.

In the long run, Sigma Tau Delta plans on holding a nation-wide book drive to replenish the libraries of the affected areas. But for now, we offer our sincere condolences and our constant prayers to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

If you or your chapter has been affected in ANY way by Hurricane Katrina, please contact me.

Also, if your chapter is helping in the relief efforts, we would like to know about it. Email me at:

Lauren Elliott at
ellio043@bama.ua.edu.

NEW and RETURNING STD SOUTHERN CHAPTERS!!!

The Southern Region has grown over the last year. Please join me in welcoming the new and returning chapters to Sigma Tau Delta!

New Chapters:

Southern Virginia University
Buena Vista, Virginia

Dillard University
New Orleans, Louisiana

University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg
Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Reactivated Chapters:

Mars Hill College
Mars Hill, North Carolina

Salem College
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Tougaloo College
Tougaloo, Mississippi

Some of our new chapters were affected by Hurricane Katrina. Please keep them in your thoughts.

SMART Choices for Giving

by: Daniel Hardy and Traci Thomas-Card

As members of Sigma Tau Delta, we have a wonderful opportunity to help those in need through our annual book drives. At the 2006 National Convention in Portland, OR, members of Sigma Tau Delta will be able to contribute books to two worthy organizations: S.M.A.R.T. and the Cedar Mills Community Library.

S.M.A.R.T (Start Making A Reader Today) is a literacy program that brings adults and children (kindergarten through third grade) together to foster reading skills, and to transform children's futures through reading. Teachers involved in the program identify students most in need of extra attention; once in the S.M.A.R.T. program, the student reads twice a week with two committed adult volunteers for the remainder of the school year. Every month, S.M.A.R.T. provides two free books for each child to take home and keep; sometimes these are the only books in the child's house. To best help the S.M.A.R.T.

program, young children's books are the best to donate--those appropriate for kindergarten through the third grades. If you'd like further information about the program, feel free to visit their homepage at www.getsmartoregon.org.

The Cedar Mills Community Library is primarily supported through membership donations, 2nd Edition Retail Shop, and various fundraisers. Last year they added more than 5,000 books to their collection, and sold another 10,000 or so in their used book sale. Despite their need for books, the library has a small staff and limited space. They have asked that Sigma Tau Delta restrict our donation to 150 books. The library has requested

- Popular new books (anything on the best seller list)
- 2004 and later travel guides (both domestic and foreign)

- Current software handbooks (2004 and 2005 editions)
- How-legal books (I.e. landlord tenant laws, divorce, incorporating)
- Business plans (books about setting up small businesses)
- Children's books (especially Newbery and Caldecott award winners)
- SAT, GRE, and LSAT test preparation books

As an added incentive, the chapter that donates the most books to either organization will have a monetary donation given to S.M.A.R.T or the Cedar Mills Community Library in their name.

It is never too early to start looking for books to bring to the convention. Thrift sales, used book sales, attics, and closets are all good places to start looking. Let's make this book drive the best yet, and show our support for the children and communities that need our help!

"As an added incentive, the chapter that donates the most books to either organization will receive a monetary donation given to S.M.A.R.T or the Cedar Mills Community Library in their name."

FUNDING FUNDAMENTALS: Paying your way to Convention

We all know how expensive it can be to send delegates to conventions. However, the benefits of attending a Sigma Tau Delta convention far outweigh the cost of getting there. But if your organization is faced with limited funds (hey, who isn't ...we're all English majors), there are a few things that you can start doing immediately to ensure that you are taking in the picturesque landscape of Portland, Oregon come March.

The key is to **start early, be creative, and be persistent.**

1) Go to the head of the English Department at your school. See how willing he/ she is to allocate some funding for the trip. Stress how important and beneficial this trip is not just for the students who are participating, but that it also reflects well on the department.

2) Then, go to the Dean of your school (if applicable) and ask for funding. For instance, I attend the University of Alabama, and the English program falls in the College of Arts and Sciences. Usually, the Dean of the Arts and

Sciences College will give my chapter funding because it makes his office look good for sending delegates to an international scholarly convention.

3. If your school has an Honors Program or an Honors College, ask the program to also donate some money. Chances are, many of the students in your chapter who wish to go to the convention are honors students.

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Get Involved!!: Regional and National Opportunities

Looking for a new way to get involved with Sigma Tau Delta? Run for a national position. Each year at the state caucus meeting at convention, we vote on a new Student Representative and a new Assistant Student Representative.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my term this year as the Student Representative for the Southern Region. It has given me the opportunity to not only meet with but become friends with people from all over the country who are associated with Sigma Tau Delta on all levels of the

organization. Some of the responsibilities of the Student Representative include creating two newsletters, one for the fall and one for the spring, attending the annual board meeting, working with the other SRs to develop the leadership workshop, and keeping in close contact with the Regent.

Some of the benefits include: having your way paid to the convention and the board meeting, being able to produce a regional publication (the newsletter), and of course, getting the chance to work closely with the wonderful

leaders of Sigma Tau Delta.

The Associate Student Representative works very closely with both the Student Representative and the Regent on projects benefiting the region. The ASR must submit articles for the newsletter and assist the SR with his or her duties whenever possible.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to run for the position again because I will be attending law school. Therefore, I strongly encourage everyone to apply for these wonderful positions.

Run for Southern Student Representative or Assistant Student Representative. Applications available at: www.english.org/

CONTACT INFO

Regent:

Lillian Schanfield
lschanfield@mail.barry.edu

Student Representative:

Lauren Elliott
Ellio043@bama.ua.edu

Assistant Student Representative:

Albert Cordero
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STDs on the Web!

See us at:

www.english.org

Want to Represent your Chapter? Then, SUBMIT

The next newsletter won't be until April. But that doesn't mean you can't be already thinking about an article to submit. This newsletter was created in order to reach out to chapters from across the United States. Our job is to represent you.

Let us know if your chapter has thought of a really good way to get funding for convention, if it completed a large volunteer project, or just wants to share what it has been up to over the past semester.

We want everybody to know the positive things that you are doing to promote Sigma Tau Delta on your campus.

FUNDING, continued from Page 5

4. Check out alternative sources of funding, such as from the Student Government Association (SGA) or from a Research and Travel Committee. Many large organizations on campus offer funding to students who are participating in research or presenting papers.

5. Lucky for all of us, we live in the Southern Region where our Regent, Ms. Schanfield, has offered to give \$200 to any chapter who has not

sent a delegate in the past three years. You can consider that money in the bank.

6. For every person that you go to and ask for funding, ask he or she to refer another person or group who might be able to help you find funding.

7. And Don't forget about fundraisers. Bake Sales, T-Shirt Sales, Book Sales... all of these fundraisers can at least raise money for

registration fees or snacks for the road.

8. START NOW. It takes a lot of time and effort to raise money. But don't let that discourage you. Ask members of your chapter to help. Odds are, if several people are very passionate about attending, administrators will start to pay attention and be more likely to fulfill your requests for funding.

IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

- ❖ NEXT YEAR'S CONFERENCE WILL BE IN PORTLAND, OREGAN
- ❖ PORTLAND CONFERENCE: MARCH 29-APRIL 2, 2006
- ❖ SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE: OCTOBER 30, 2005
- ❖ CONVENTION PAPER SUBMISSIONS: NOVEMBER 29, 2005
- ❖ SOUTHERN WRITING CONTEST NOVEMBER 29, 2005