



Southern Region

Spring 2004

Southern Gazette

Sincerity Truth Design

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Reflections on Daytona Beach 2004

A record number of students and sponsors gathered this year in Daytona for Sigma Tau Delta's National Conference. We were at the tail end



Elizabeth Suergiu

of spring break, in the heart of spring break county and through that it was my pleasure to note the sincerity and commitment of all our members. Breakout sessions were widely attended, often with standing room only. Papers covered a vast range of topics yet every one was original, organized, and thought provoking.

Our speakers added a special element to the conference. Former US poet laureate Billy Collins presided with what was almost literary sovereignty, Sarah Vowell infused spectators with her lively, witty, and often irreverent goodwill, and Scott Morris truthful artistry evoked genuine and meaningful thought and feeling. I would like to thank all of our speakers on behalf of the organization, the student membership, and also myself, for their contribution to making this a successful conference and for their personal commitment to those who wish to follow the trails they blaze.

Some important events characterized this conference. On Saturday night students and sponsors present at the Banquet saw the passing of the torch as Dr. Beth Demeo stepped down and President-Elect Dr. Kevin Stemmler was sworn into office. This year also saw the retiring of Jeannie Clegg, a longtime

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Get All the Digital World has to Offer

by Elizabeth Suergiu

Networking is one of the central elements of being in an honor society. In the spirit of keeping-in-touch, the Southern Gazette would like to present your guide to just a few features on the the Sigma Tau Delta website www.english.org.

The Bulletin Board (<http://www.english.org/cgi-bin/yabb/YaBB.pl>)

This features 33 different themed discussions on topics ranging from local chapter concerns, to regional updates, to general questions about grammar, English, and literature.

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A Word from the Regent

Greetings from your Regent:

We're all still pretty excited about the convention, which took place in our region last month. As you know, we really try to vary our conference sites (last year Cincinnati, next year Kansas City), but this was the first time in my memory that we convened in my own state of Florida. We all had a chance to stroll up and down the beach, acting out the convention theme, "a pleasant walk, a pleasant talk."

We can be proud of all the members in our region who walked away with scholarships and awards. These are all listed at the website and some of the convention-theme essays are even published there. I was really happy to see our region so well represented at the convention (you all become visible as a group when we break

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Your ASR for 2004-05

figure at the Central Office whose absence will be keenly felt by anyone who had occasion to e-mail, write-to, call, or otherwise contact the Central Office. Special thanks must of course go to Convention Chair Dr. Elizabeth Holtze, whose efforts brought this conference into being, and to the Board of Directors.

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into regional caucuses) and hope that anyone reading this who wasn't in Daytona Beach will start thinking about Kansas City 2005.

I've enjoyed working with your enthusiastic and capable Southern Student Representative, Elizabeth Suergiu, who was re-elected for a second term in the Southern Caucus. She's done a fine job with our newsletters and other duties, and I encourage you to contact her with concerns or ideas.

Let me also urge everyone in our region to apply for scholarships and awards. Do not assume that "other people" get these awards. If you do, then "they do and you don't" (does that make sense?). Seriously, there is no advantage to being from a large rather than a small chapter or school, and everyone is on an even playing field. Sigma Tau Delta offers significant monetary awards. Please check the website after August to get the latest application forms and information.

My role as Regent is to offer you support, advice, help and even (some) money for certain activities. I quote-with some caution—the following statement from our handbook: "Your regent is more than happy to give you financial help for hosting a conference." 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.

Right now we're all in the April cyclone of assignments and papers, so it's hard to think of anything but getting through. However, it's not a bad time to think of the

Gianni Hernandez was born and raised in Miami Florida and is a Junior at Barry University majoring in English Literature. He is a writer of short stories, poems and is working on a novel. Gianni hopes to attend graduate school in New York City and eventually write for the daytime soap opera "All My Children." Favorite Authors include Geoffrey Chaucer, Katherine Anne Porter and Cristina Garcia.

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Graphics (<http://www.english.org/graphics.shtml>)

This segment of the website has all the graphics you need to put together an official Sigma Tau Delta website, to draft chapter letterhead, or to add a lighthearted element to any chapter publication

The Calendar (<http://www.english.org/calendar.shtml>)

Here is where you will find listed all deadlines by month along with links to applications.

The Directory (<http://www.english.org/directory.shtml>)

Find chapters listed by state.

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papers you are writing as potential presentations for the next convention. They can be revised and polished before the November deadline. As always I encourage you to think ahead in order to make things happen. Now is the time to plan. Plan to apply for chapter, journal, and website awards and, of course, for scholarships.

I wish all of you a successful completion to the current semester and a productive and enjoyable summer break. Finally, congratulations to all those who are graduating (and remember our new Alumni-at-large Chapter).

Lillian Schanfield
Barry University, Miami

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Contacts (<http://www.english.org/contacts.shtml>)

Here you will find the names, business addresses, and phone numbers of any board member. The listing includes e-mails and a listing of the contact information for the Central Office.

Student Positions (<http://www.english.org/students.shtml>)

A must for anyone wishing to become a board member. This contains links to all the necessary applications for student positions.

Spotlight: The Book-Go-Round

By Elizabeth Suergiu

Sigma Tau Delta's Student Leadership Committee has recently begun its new pet project, the Book-Go-Round. This endeavor is a way of promoting the intimacy of literature; books mean something to those who read them and this meaning is often deeper than a simple class assignment or passing interest. The book go round is a way of sharing not only our books but the meaning of our books and the real, personal importance which books have for us.

Simply go to the Book-Go-Round section of the Sigma Tau Delta Website (<http://www.english.org/bgr.shtml>) and fill out a "new book form." The webmaster will e-mail a unique ID number. Write that number in the book along with the message that this book is part of Sigma Tau Delta's Book-Go-Round. Then leave your own message, if you choose. It can be something simple, or something more complex, something about the story or about your own personal relationship with the story.

Leave the book some place conspicuous (airports or bus stops are good suggestions) and wait. Check the website periodically at http://www.english.org/bgr_library.shtml to see the status and whereabouts of your book. Your book may travel nationwide or may stay in a relatively small area. Regardless of mileage, your book will make a journey in which you can partake.

How do you succeed without trying?

Students are the lifeblood of Sigma Tau Delta. It says so in our manuals. Student involvement is an enduring principle of our organization. Nothing Sigma Tau Delta achieves, either the conferences, or the publications, or the service, could be accomplished without the drive of dedicated students willing to devote their time and effort to the organization.

Thus it is perplexing why the southern region has its student leadership roles filled exclusively by students at Barry University. Student leadership roles are filled through elections. There is only one rule: fill out the appropriate application and deliver it to Dr. Lillian Schanfield, the Southern Regent, some time before the regional caucus. In the past it has been necessary to have "off the cuff" elections, but when someone fills out a form, no one should be surprised when that person is elected by default. The same goes for both Associate and Student Representatives.

There was at this conference the whispered word "nepotism." Let me clarify now: this is not and cannot be the case. Barry University, Dr. Schanfield, and myself, have no influence over who in the Southern region fills out an application. That responsibility lies with students. Every chapter, and therefore every university, has only one vote. But there is no vote unless there are candidates. There are no candidates unless there are dedicated students with applications.

This is not intended to offend. Many people consider running and choose not to. This is fine. We value all student involvement on all levels. Not everyone needs to be SR or ASR in fact, this would be undesirable, to say the least.

Our region is heavily active and turns out brilliant papers, stories, poems, and skits. But part of the job of Student Representative is to encourage people to fill this role when I am no longer capable of doing so. I encourage everyone to fill out an application. My work with Sigma Tau Delta has been some of the most rewarding I have ever done. It is an opportunity not to be taken lightly, but also not to be taken for granted.

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