

## Special News:

- Next year's convention will be in Portland, Oregon March 29-April 2, 2006
- Deadline for scholarship applications is October 30, 2005.

## Regent Contact Information:

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## SIGMA TAU DELTA

### Kansas City Convention Highlights

This year's annual Sigma Tau Delta Convention was held in Kansas City at the beautiful Westin Crown Center Plaza Hotel. The hotel's "total package" included a classy jazz bar/steakhouse, an attached shopping mall, and a breathtaking indoor atrium, complete with a cascading waterfall.

While the hotel was definitely an added plus, the many events that occurred during the conference are what will stick out in the minds of the attendees. From the stimulating guest

speakers to the hilarious bad poetry competition, everyone could find something to do in Kansas City.

Conference goers were privileged to have as their guest speakers writer Jamaica Kincaid, poet Henri Cole, and non-fiction writer Peter Hessler. And for those who were smart/lucky enough to register early, workshops were hosted by both Henri Cole and Peter Hessler, which allowed students the chance to have their own personal work critiqued

and fine-tuned.

Other events included the (dry) t-shirt competition where chapters created and performed a short skit revolving around their t-shirt design, the ever-popular bad poetry competition where STDs best and brightest venture onstage to share their hilariously bad poetry, and a leadership workshop, hosted by the SRs, ASRs, and the SAs, which gave chapters advice on successful fundraising, increasing chapter enrollment, and "fine-tuning" leadership skills.

### The Southern Region Wins Big at Convention

Every year, members from chapters across the nation crowd into a banquet room at the end of convention in hopes of being recognized for their academic accomplishments over the past year. While the awards banquet officially symbolizes the closing of yet another convention and another year in Sigma Tau Delta, it also represents the hard work and dedication that students and faculty have demonstrated over the

past year.

This year, members from the Southern Region wowed judges and fellow members alike, pulling in an astonishing twenty-two awards! I believe that this achievement says a lot about the chapters in our region; and therefore, I would like to recognize all of the members and/or chapters who received recognition for their dedication to upholding the ideals of Sigma Tau Delta.

#### CONVENTION WRITING AWARDS:

Sara Watkins  
University of Alabama  
Runner-up, Critical Essay  
(\$50)

Gabriel Ford  
University of Alabama  
1<sup>ST</sup> Place, Poetry  
(\$100)

Amanda Steward  
Winthrop University  
Runner-up, Poetry  
(\$100)

see "awards", page 2

**AWARDS, continued from page one**

Tara Tyson  
University of Alabama  
1<sup>st</sup> Place, Fiction  
(\$100)

**CONVENTION ESSAY AWARDS:**

Ji-young Kwon  
University of Virginia

Zach Showers  
University of Alabama

Michelle Saraceni  
UNC- Wilmington  
Runner-up

Lisa Rudden  
University of Alabama  
Runner-up

**LITERARY ARTS JOURNAL AWARDS:**

Barry University  
Alpha Alpha Xi  
(\$400)

Athens State University  
Kappa Zeta  
(\$150)

**OUTSTANDING SPONSOR AWARDS:**

(ELAINE W. HUGHES)

Margaret Oakes  
Furman University

**OUTSTANDING REGIONAL SPONSOR:**

Kathy Lyday-Lee  
Elon University  
Southern Region

**OUTSTANDING WEB:**

Old Dominion University  
Nu Epsilon  
1<sup>st</sup> Place, (\$200)

**PROJECT GRANTS:**

Saint Augustine's College  
Lambda Lambda  
(\$200)

**SCHOLARLY PAPER AWARDS:**

Leigh Camacho  
Southeastern Louisiana St  
Graduate Paper Winner  
(\$150)

**SCHOLARSHIPS:**

Tara Tyson  
University of Alabama  
Graduate Scholarship  
(\$2000)

Zachary Showers  
University of Alabama  
Regnery Scholarship  
(\$2500)

Heather Byland  
University of AL-Huntsville  
Runner-up Regnery  
(\$2000)

Elizabeth Suergiu  
Barry University  
Runner-up Regnery  
(\$500)

Lisa Rudden  
University of Alabama  
Senior Scholarship  
(\$2000)

Lauren Elliott  
University of Alabama  
Junior Scholarship  
(\$2000)

Michelle Saraceni  
UNC-Wilmington  
Study Abroad Scholarship  
(\$2000)

**FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF AWARD WINNERS, VISIT THE STD WEBSITE AT:**

[www.english.org](http://www.english.org)

To apply for next year's scholarships, visit the Sigma Tau Delta Website at [www.english.org](http://www.english.org) under "Forms"

Members from the Southern Region Chapters won Twenty-Two Awards at the Kansas City Convention!

**Meet your Student Representative**

Greetings from the University of Alabama! My name is Lauren Elliott, and I am your new student representative. I am a rising senior, double majoring in English and History with a minor in Political Science. (I bet you can't tell that I plan on attending law school!)

While attending my first Sigma Tau Delta convention this past month in Kansas City, I was honored to meet STD

members and faculty from all across the United States and learn more about different aspects of the organization.

Throughout the convention, I felt as if there was a wonderful momentum building as convention-goers expressed new ideas, shared success stories, and joined together in fellowship.

At the regional caucus, I

was completely delighted to be elected to a more involved role in STD. My hope is that I can continue with that momentum generated at conference in order to make Sigma Tau Delta the best that it can be.

Therefore, if you ever have any comments, questions, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. After all, I am here to serve you.

## Chapter Updates

### Morehouse College

Currently, the Upsilon Nu chapter has been quite busy organizing, attending and sponsoring numerous campus events. We have continued to sponsor Morehouse College's African Film Society, an informal group that discusses African Films over popcorn and drinks, and have recently sponsored the 2nd annual "A Night of Elegance," a forum that discusses issues of anti-intellectualism and community apathy in the Atlanta University Center.

Furthermore, we have formulated and conducted student satisfaction surveys in the Morehouse English Department in an effort to more effectively identify areas of improvement. Several of our members serve as writing tutors in the Morehouse College Writing Lab, and have used the opportunity to establish relationships with underclassmen.

In the next few weeks, Upsilon Nu will host a joint academic social with Spelman College's Sigma Tau Delta Chapter, and will also participate in an event with STD chapter at Clark Atlanta University.

Upsilon Nu continues to look into the future, and has several events in the conceptual stages for the next school year,

including an essay contest, a book drive, several writing workshops, and a mentoring program.

Alan Clarke  
Upsilon Nu

### UNC-Greensboro

UNC-Greensboro's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta decided to start a new activity this year to encourage members to get involved in the community. Our secretary, Carrie Fox, organized a program with the Greensboro Public Library called "Ready, Set, Read?" We met on Saturdays in March and April to read to children at the library. Each officer led a day with STD members who volunteered. There were different themes and genres such as humorous poetry, scary stories, etc. for each day. Afterwards there were crafts and games. It was really fun getting to know some of the kids and parents in the community. We hope that Sigma Tau Delta members will continue this activity in the future.

Alexandra Schultheis  
Alpha Theta Alpha

### Coker College

As a first project for the year, our Sigma Tau Delta chapter sponsored a child from the "Angel Tree." Members were asked to donate between \$2 and \$5 each for the sponsorship.

Coker College sponsors an "Angel Tree" each year. The project provides "Christmas gifts to area children who might have little or no Christmas otherwise," according to Dr. Gibson.

In other news, Coker College just recently created and circulated a newsletter among members. The Pi Gamma chapter has not been large enough to even make use of a newsletter in the past, but we currently have the largest membership in chapter history. So, we hope that newsletters, such as the one that we recently created, will soon become a useful tool to communicate our goals and activities to a growing Pi Gamma chapter membership.

William James  
Pi Gamma Chapter  
Historian/Secretary  
Coker College

### Elon University

The Xi Omicron chapter at Elon University inducted 26 new student members, five faculty, and one honorary member last fall. The honorary member was author Sharyn McCrumb, who also delivered the guest lecture, which was open to the campus and community. She spoke about her novel *Ghost Riders* and signed books afterwards.

This spring we hosted the North Carolina Humanities Council artist Joseph Bathanti, who read his poetry and talked about the poetic process. In April we will participate in the university's annual Honor Society College Coffee, and in May the chapter sponsors a reception for our graduating seniors. Both English Scholars for the year were Sigma Tau Delta members, Lindsay Rushmore and Megan Turner.

The chapter is already busy planning for next year's induction and speakers, as well as trying to put together a program for the larger campus community that involves student readings and performances

Kathy Lyday-Lee  
Co-sponsor  
Xi Omicron Chapter

### Eastern Kentucky Univ.

Next week, in honor of National Poetry Month, our chapter is having our annual 24-hour Poetry Marathon. The marathon begins at noon on Thursday, April 14 and continues, non-stop, until noon on Friday. STD members and advisors volunteer to monitor the marathon throughout all 24-hours and students, faculty, staff, and community members read poetry throughout the marathon. During the reading we ask for donations for the public library and give out various prizes,

## UPDATES, continued from page 3

including 2005 EKU STD Poetry Marathon t-shirts. This year our slogan is "Word Burn." The marathon is a great way to raise money for the library, but it is also a way for our department to come together and support one another, as well as poetry.

Jessica Beth Howard  
Secretary, Sigma Epsilon

### Marymont University

The Sigma Tau Delta chapter at Marymount University, Arlington, VA is an active honor society on campus. In December 2004, we held a book drive. We collected board and picture books for infants and preschoolers at St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home in Hyattsville, MD. We also plan to host English Night at Marymount. We have hosted this event in past years as well. English Night is an event in which all English or Literature and Language majors are invited to celebrate graduating students, witness the induction of new STD members, and hear from a guest speaker and an alum. The STD chapter is continuing to grow.

Rebecca Gibbs  
Alpha Kappa Gamma

### Univ. of Central Florida

The Zeta Xi chapter of Sigma Tau Delta at the

University of Central Florida is in the midst of planning its second lecture series, in which we invite professors from various disciplines to speak on pop-culture phenomena. Our past topics have included The Matrix, Lord of the Rings, and The Da Vinci Code. This spring, our topics will be Harry Potter and Star Wars, and we have professors from the English, film and philosophy departments speaking. We also just completed a "Reading Day" at a local homeless shelter, in which we worked with children on reading and writing original stories. In addition, we raised money this semester by holding a used book sale, and selling candy and love poetry on Valentine's Day.

Dana Sigmund  
President, Zeta Xi

### University of South

#### Carolina-Aiken

The Epsilon Upsilon chapter at the University of South Carolina Aiken once again sold books this year in connection with the annual visiting writers' series on campus. In March, as part of the visit of mystery novelist Sharyn McCrumb, the group sold copies of her "ballad" novels; profits from the sale of these works benefited the Sigma Tau Delta Scholarship Endowment.

Each year from the interest generated by an endowment account established about ten years ago and augmented each year through special book sales, the chapter is able to award a \$500 scholarship to a USCA undergraduate majoring in English.

Tom Mack  
Advisor, Epsilon Upsilon

### Furman University

This past year Furman's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta has hosted a variety of events. We regularly host literary film events in which we screen a popular literary film such as *Emma*, *The Color Purple*, or *Shakespeare in Love*, and invite an English professor to give a brief lecture accompanying the film. These are well-attended by the student body, because they are a part of the university's cultural life program.

In March we held the 3rd Annual Poetry Slam, inviting students to compete in a slam competition that included a brief lecture on slam poetry, guest poets, and door prizes for the audience. In addition, we held major fundraising events in the winter and spring. For Valentine's Day, we sold "sonnet-grams" that we delivered to mailboxes, and before

see "updates" page 5

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*For information about chapters from other regions, go to the STD website and search under the "Chapters" section.*

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*For ideas about possible chapter activities, go to [http://www.english.org/chap\\_activities.shtml](http://www.english.org/chap_activities.shtml)*

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beach weekend, we sold used books we had collected. Both fundraisers raised money to support the Greenville Literacy Association.

Melanie King  
President, Alpha Eta Eta

### Mississippi State Univ.

The Xi Kappa chapter of STD at Mississippi State University is currently in the process of putting on a children's charity play for the local Boys and Girls Club. We are performing a play written by one of our professors Dr. Richard Wolf's "Sort of Beowulf: A Sort of Comedy." While we will not be charging admission, we will be taking donations for the B&G Club and we will also have a bake sale after the play with all proceeds going to the B&G Club.

We have also been running a book drive for Starkville Public Library. On our first drop off in March, we had 276 books, and we're still continuing this project. We are judging a high school poetry contest for the Cotton District Arts Festival. More information about our chapter can be found on our new website: [www.msstate.edu/org/sigmataudelta](http://www.msstate.edu/org/sigmataudelta)

Alicia Aiken  
Graduate President  
Xi Kappa

### University of Alabama-Huntsville

The Upsilon Mu chapter at UAH has been very active the last few years. Every fall we have a two-day book/bake sale. We get book donations from members and faculty (you'd be amazed how many we get) and the members bring baked goods as well. This year we raised \$500!

In the spring we have a Valentine's Day raffle, raffling off three prizes--DVDs, gift certificates to local restaurants, chocolates, etc. We've only done that for three years, and each year we have gotten a better response.

In late spring, after the hectic part of the semester is over, we use some of the funds that we have raised to treat our members to a dinner/theatre night. We choose a local restaurant and a play put on by one of our community theatre groups, and the chapter defrays some of the cost for the members. It is a great way to celebrate our hard work and to get to know each other a little better. And this year we had a lot to celebrate. The past two years we have sent a representative to present a paper at the national conference, and

we're proud of our members' academic achievements as well as their active participation in the chapter.

Julie Hawk  
Secretary, Upsilon Mu

### Berea College

Berea College's chapter, Sigma Tau Delta and Berea College Learning Center will co-sponsor the annual poetry reading, "Shared Inspirations," on April 29, at 6:30 pm with poet, Ricardo Nazario-Colon. Colon is on staff at U.K. and heads the MLK cultural center. He is a distinguished performance poet, Latin dance instructor, and founder of the Affrilachian Poets.

Sigma Tau Delta will also take donations at the door, and encourage Berea College professors to sponsor student readers. All proceeds will go to CareUSA.org, an organization that provides aide to victims of the Tsunami in Indonesia.

Student Learning Center consultant and coordinator of "Shared Inspirations" will also share poetry from the late Henry Allen Lane, an African-American Berea alum who fought against the Day Law in the early 1900's.

Hollie Jacobs  
Publicity Coordinator  
Xi Pi

### Florida Southern College

The Psi Epsilon chapter at Florida Southern College wrapped up 2004-2005 with a burst of activities. We held our annual used book sale at our college's jazz festival, bringing in money which we promptly used on an end-of-year BBQ. We finished the year by celebrating Shakespeare: we held a reading of all 154 of his sonnets from the second-story balcony of our campus library. Students, faculty, and staff all joined in.

Alexander M. Bruce  
Advisor, Psi Epsilon

### University of North Carolina-Pembroke

Though the Sigma Xi chapter of UNC Pembroke focused mostly on membership recruitment this year, it still hosted it's semesterly poetry readings on campus and began planning for sponsoring a guest writer/speaker for next year. The chapter also helped coordinate a career workshop for graduating English majors.

Jamie Griffith  
President, Sigma Xi

## UPDATES, continued from pages 3-5

### Old Dominion

The big news at Chapter Nu Upsilon is that we were awarded First Place and \$200 at the National Convention for our chapter website: (<http://www.orgs.odu.edu/sigtau/>)

Otherwise the chapter has been rebuilding our membership and events this year. In the Fall we attempted to revive our Undergraduate Reading Series which provides an important venue for students to present their work in front of a public audience. We were unsuccessful in attracting student participation this year, but we plan on trying again next year.

Chapter Nu Upsilon also conducted two fundraisers. Our fall fundraiser was very successful. We collected used books from the English Department and chapter members and then sold the books over two days for a profit of \$150. The book sale was very popular and many people indicated that they would be receptive to a repeat. However, in the spring on Valentine's Day we decided to sell Roses which had worked out really well in the past. Alas, we experienced fierce competition from a Christian campus organization and only netted about \$50.

Charity wise, Nu Upsilon's project this year was creating badly needed personal hygiene kits for the women shelter's in the local area. After our April 19th meeting we will have created nearly 200 kits.

Lastly, the chapter inducted a total 37 new members this year. We accomplished this through direct mailing of invitations to eligible undergraduates. A list was provided to us by our chapter sponsor and the office of the registrars at Old Dominion University. Our officers also made short presentations about Sigma Tau Delta in their classes.

Finally, we created a new chapter website that contained information for both potential and current members. In addition to member updates, the website contains information of membership requirements, benefits, and a downloadable application in Microsoft word.

I hope this helps out other chapters. If you would like more information on Chapter Nu Upsilon, please take a look at our website at [www.orgs.odu.edu/sigtau](http://www.orgs.odu.edu/sigtau) or email me, 2004-2005 President Andrea Murphy, at <amurp006@odu.edu>

Andrea Murphy  
President, Nu Upsilon

### Flagler University

This school year was

incredibly successful for our chapter because we were able to implement several wonderful events.

We held three creative writing readings open to submissions throughout the students. We put up publicity and sent out mass e-mails asking for submissions and then decided on the writers. In the Fall, we had a Poetry Reading which was held in the Flagler Room. In the Spring, we held a Short Short Story (five pages or under) Reading in the Flagler Room and a Poetry Reading down the street at an art gallery called the Energy Lab. All of the aforementioned events were well attended by the school population.

This semester, we started a new tradition that we lovingly call FWAC (Fake Wine and Cheese Night).

We decided on a topic, Robert Frost and E.E. Cummings, and then discussed it in a non-threatening, non-academic setting, our co-sponsor's house. We enjoyed fake wine, cheese, other snacks and wonderful conversation.

It was an excellent opportunity for English majors to get together.

Next semester, there are already plans in the works for a "Back with FWAC" to discuss banned books.

We also hold "Movie Nights." For those events, we ask a professor to lead a discussion after a movie.

Last semester, we showed Fahrenheit 911, which was incredibly well attended.

As for fundraising, we usually hold "Book/ Bake Sales." We are constantly getting donations from people and that gives us an opportunity to sell books and some baked goods to raise money for the chapter and the community.

J. Cynthia Fike  
Outgoing President  
Alpha Omega Epsilon

### UNC-Wilmington

It's a great year for the Alpha Alpha Upsilon chapter of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. In March we celebrated our tenth anniversary. We are pleased to see how the chapter has developed, and are eagerly anticipating what the future holds.

This semester members have enjoyed events such as the Mad Hatter tea party, an Italian dinner, and an anniversary party.

We also look forward to our annual picnic where new members will be inducted. Also, for the first time our chapter was accepted to conduct a panel at the international Sigma Tau Delta convention in Kansas City, Missouri.

## Contacts

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### Assistant Student Representative:

Albert Cordero  
[corderoa@bucmail.barry.edu](mailto:corderoa@bucmail.barry.edu)

### STDs on the Web!

See us at:

[www.english.org](http://www.english.org)

## UPDATES, continued from pages 3-6

Alpha Alpha Upsilon conducted two fundraising events, a bake sale and a book sale, to send Emily Rea, Ashley Bissette, Joni Corak, and Emily Ullmer as panel members and representatives. We regret to lose our graduating members in May, but are already planning events for the upcoming year.

Lauren Jones  
 Alpha Alpha Upsilon

### Tennessee Technological University

The Tau Zeta chapter of Sigma Tau Delta at Tennessee Technological University enjoys getting together to discuss books, plays, and cultural events occurring around our campus and our community.

Several of our members are involved with the local theater on campus, and some enjoy writing their own fiction

and poetry and sharing it with their fellow members.

We just held our first annual Valentine's Day Sonnet-Gram sale this year, to raise money for the organization and to provide some strapped-for-ideas spouses, lovers, and friends a way of showing their love through classic poetry.

Two of our members were a part of this year's campus production of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues," so, to show their support, several more volunteered to usher for the event, with all proceeds from the show going toward the Tennessee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

Tom Saya  
 Tau Zeta

### University of Alabama

The Phi Xi Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta has held many events over this past semester. Shortly

after we inducted our new members, we held our biannual event "Wine and Cheese." The Wine and Cheese is an event where students and English faculty can come together and eat, drink, and be merry! It is always a huge success because both students and faculty enjoy interacting with each other outside of a classroom setting.

We also sold our infamous George Bush t-shirts and held a raffle in order to raise money to go to convention. We were lucky enough to have thirteen students attend the convention in Kansas City, and many of them received awards or recognition.

In the next few weeks, we will be holding our annual BBQ cookout at Dr. Halli's house, where we will elect new officers.

Lauren Elliott  
 Outgoing Treasurer  
 Phi Xi Chapter

## Important Dates and Information

- NEXT YEAR'S CONFERENCE WILL BE IN PORTLAND, OREGON ON MARCH 29-APRIL 2, 2006
- The Portland Oregon Conference theme will be "GREEN"
- Scholarship Deadline is October 30, 2005