

THE SOUTHWESTERN

SPRING 2007 **SOUTHWESTERN**
AZ, AR, NM, OK, TX **REGIONAL**
 NEWSLETTER

GREETINGS FROM YOUR NEW SR

Hello!

My name is Kelly Brubaker, and this year at the convention in Pittsburgh, I was elected to be your new Southwestern Region Student Representative (SR). Together with Tim Lloyd, your new Associate Student Representative (ASR), I will be keeping you up to date on what is happening with Sigma Tau Delta by bringing you the biannual newsletter and promoting communication between chapters. Needless to say, I am honored and delighted to serve you in this manner.

A few words about myself: I'm an English major with a creative writing emphasis at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, OK. I live in a plum red house with creaky wooden floors, and I consume a disturbing amount of tea and chocolate. If you have about eight hours to spend, you should ask me about my dedicated efforts to create the next Great American Novel.

My ambitions for the Southwestern Region this year are high, but I know they aren't beyond the reach of my extraordinary fellow Sigma Tau Delta members. I would love to see the entire region cooperate on a literacy project

(for more about this, see Tim's idea on page 2). I'd also like to foster a greater degree of chapter-to-chapter communication by sharing news about local events. I want you to take advantage of the opportunity this year to get to know other Sigma Tau Delta members in your state (and for a fun opportunity to do this, check out the profile on our new Facebook group on page 6).

Above all, I'm here for you. If you have any questions about Sigma Tau Delta in general, concerns about your chapter, comments about or ideas for the newsletter, remarkable stories to share, ideas for a regional event...or if you just want to say hi, please email me at kelly.brubaker@okbu.edu.

I'm looking forward to a wonderful year. Happy reading!



Kelly Brubaker / SR / Oklahoma Baptist University

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Meet Your New SR and ASR!*
- *Get the buzz on what's coming up for 2007.*
- *Spotlight on Confluence: Pittsburgh.*
- *Hear from Your SAs and Regent.*
- *Contact Us.*

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GREETINGS FROM YOUR NEW ASR

Hi, my name is Tim Lloyd.

I am a junior English/ pre-law major at Saint Edwards University in Austin, Texas. At the last Sigma Tau Delta convention, the Southwestern Region elected me to serve as the Associate Student Representative.

I am excited about this opportunity because I believe the National English Honor Society is in a prime position to serve the community, increase its mem-

bership base, and add prestige to an already prestigious organization. I will be working closely with Southwestern Regional delegate, Kelly Brubaker, and Southwestern Regent, Sid Watson, in order to have a positive impact on the scholastic community and raise the profile of Sigma Tau Delta.

I look forward to having a great year representing the Southwestern Region and am ready to get to work!



Tim Lloyd (ASR)

STATEWIDE LITERACY EVENT

As Sigma Tau Delta continues to grow in numbers and becomes a flagship organization for the promotion of academic scholarship, it becomes clear that the organization needs a more entrenched community presence. In 2008, it is my vision for the Sigma Tau Delta Southwestern Region to coordinate a broad and sweeping fundraising initiative to highlight the importance of childhood literacy.

In Texas, a state whose public educational system suffers from financial deficits, crowded classrooms, and a lingering disregard for academic achievement, the threat of illiteracy often becomes a harsh reality and severely limits the opportunities of those that never grasp the written language. The cultivation of a completely literate population is the noblest ideal a society can aspire to.

To make this ideal real, it requires that the educational system prioritizes literacy education for young children. If the Southwestern Region were to organize one large centralized marathon reading

event in one highly visible and prolific city per state in the Southwest, Sigma Tau Delta could generate significant capital to benefit a noble and charitable cause, increase its visibility in the region, raise its profile relative to other academic organizations, attract more members, and most importantly, contribute positively to society.

Organizing centralized marathon reading events, in places like Austin, Texas in March of 2008, would be in the best interests of Sigma Tau Delta. Targeting cities like Austin, a political capital enriched with spirit of youthful libertarianism and student activism, would offer Sigma Tau Delta an unrivaled site for literacy fundraising. Places with relatively easy access to state representatives, lobbyists, and political progressives offer Sigma Tau Delta an unparalleled opportunity to fundraise, elevate the profile of the organization, and elevate the character of society. If you are interested in organizing an event for your state, please contact me. I look forward to hearing from you.



Kelly Brubaker (SR)

THOUGHTS?

**CONTACT TIM
LLOYD AT
TLLOYD@
STEDWARDS.EDU.**

Tim Lloyd / ASR / St. Edward's University

LYNZIE BIGGS (SA)

Currently a graduate student at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Lynzie is continuing her studies in English literature. Once she completes her M.A. she plans to pursue doctoral studies and hopes to eventually teach literature at the college level. This summer she is excited to begin her first teaching job. In this position, Lynzie will teach reading development skills to students from the kindergarten to adult levels (and everywhere in between).

Prior to the Student Advisor position, Lynzie served as the president of the Kappa Pi chapter at Alvernia College

where she received her B.A. in English and Communication, and also served as the Eastern Student Representative from 2005-2006. She is very excited to be entering her third year on the Sigma Tau Delta Board of Directors and thinks that this is going to be a fantastic year. If you have any questions, ideas, or concerns (or you just want to chat), you can email her anytime; she'd love to hear from you!

Contact Lynzie at lynzielue41@aol.com.



Lynzie Biggs (SA)

Lynzie Biggs / SA / X University

**STUDENT
ADVISORS
ATTEND BOARD
MEETINGS AND
CHAIR THE
STUDENT
LEADERSHIP
COMMITTEE.**

Sigma Tau Delta
The International English Honor Society

MICAH HICKS (SA)

Micah Hicks is a junior (soon to be senior) English major attending Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Arkansas. He likes to joke that he lives in a flower, both because he is fond of making bad jokes and because the town is very small. He's majoring in English with the intention of attending an MFA program for fiction writing.

In addition to being the president of his university's Sigma Tau Delta chapter, Micah is the president of the Emerging Writers Club on campus, is the student editor of SAU's creative writing publication, *Emergence*, and works as a writing con-

sultant in his campus Writing Center. Recently a short story of his was accepted for publication by *The Willows Magazine*, a brand new magazine dedicated to "the weird tale." He lives in a duplex off-campus with two amazing neighbors, his fiancé, several cats, and a strange canvas portrait of Woody Allen that he scored from a dusty English department storeroom and carted home. He is not sure why he did this. Micah can be bought for the amount of \$500.

Contact Micah at mdhicks1@gmail.com.



Micah Hicks (SA)

Micah Hicks / SA / X University

REGENT'S COLUMN

At this point in the year many of us (and I'm as guilty as anyone) are counting down the weeks and days until summer. All I really want to think about is how nice it will be to sit outside on a warm day with a cool drink, reading some novel that has no connection to any of my classes. Whether that's your idea of summer bliss or you prefer to dream of travel or pursuing other interests that are crowded out by the demands of the school year, please, dream on. But while you're musing, I'd like to plant just a germ of an idea, one that I hope will come to fruition next September or October, once you're back to school and full of new energy and enthusiasm.

It's just a single word.

Scholarships.

Each year Sigma Tau Delta awards approximately \$35,000 in scholarships. These scholarships come in a variety of categories. Interested in studying overseas? Sigma Tau Delta has a scholarship for you. Will you begin your first year of teaching in Fall 2008? Sigma Tau Delta has a scholarship for you. Will you be a junior, senior, or graduate student next spring? Sigma Tau Delta has a scholarship for you. We even have a Southwestern Regent's Scholarship for the best application from a student in our region.

There is just one little catch. You have to fill out the application and send it in to the Central Office. As chair of the Scholar-

ship Committee this year, I was shocked by how few applications came from the Southwestern region. I know how wonderful our chapter members are here in the Southwest. I'd like to see more of you recognized for your outstanding achievements. And I'd love to know that you have a little extra money in your pockets.

You can find out more about scholarships at the Sigma Tau Delta website (<http://www.english.org/scholarships.shtml>). Take a look around. I think you'll be pleased with what you find.

So, be warned. You'll be hearing more from me on this topic in the fall. But for now, just tuck away this one word.

Scholarships.



ΣΤΔ

SCHOLARSHIPS:

**“EACH YEAR
SIGMA TAU
DELTA AWARDS
APPROXIMATELY
\$35,000 IN
SCHOLARSHIPS.”**



Dr. Sidney Watson / SW Regent / Oklahoma Baptist University

SPOTLIGHT ON PITTSBURGH

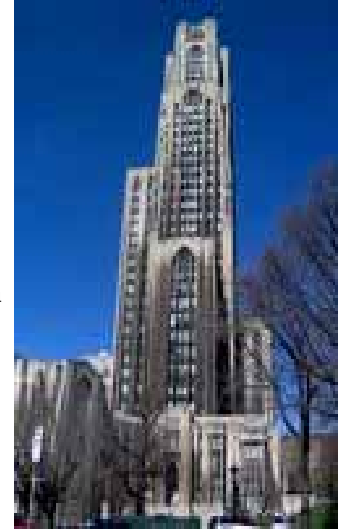
Where do students from all over the U.S. go to discuss everything from Chaucer to C.S. Lewis, from critical theory to original drama? To the Sigma Tau Delta International Convention in Pittsburgh! More students than ever before traveled to Pittsburgh to present their critical and creative work.

The three-day convention showcased student work, as well as giving students an opportunity to hear authors Sharon Olds, David Rakoff, and Jim Daniels in person and to attend seminars on student leadership and activities.

The opportunity for students to spend time with others from diverse backgrounds of education and experience can be eye-opening and beneficial. “Students from small private schools can benefit from attending conferences because it brings them into contact with the larger academic community,” said Chera Cole, senior. Sarah Byland, senior, agreed: “Going to this conference made me feel more a part of an academic community. There are so many other people out there who are interested in the same things I’m interested in and there is such diversity in the field of English.”

Convention-goers stayed in the Hilton Hotel in Pittsburgh, just a short walk from the downtown Station Square and a bus ride away from the Andy Warhol Museum, the Carnegie Natural History and Art Museum, and Pittsburgh’s Cathedral of Learning. In addition to opportunities for each member to present their academic and creative work, the convention offered a chapter sponsor workshop and a student leadership workshop. Also, new student representatives were elected during the general business session and regional caucuses.

Though the convention was largely academic, the members of the Chi Delta chapter came back from Pennsylvania with ideas for new activities, and plan to apply for the outstanding chapter award next year. The students are also motivated by the experience to make the most of their education. J.D. Byrum, senior, summed it up: “The benefit of the [convention] is just to see the quality of other students’ academic and creative pursuits. In some ways, it is an inspiration to keep writing...The spoken word is so scarce in our culture, but so powerful.”



Pittsburgh’s Cathedral of Learning.

Photo courtesy of Sarah Byland.

Join us in
Louisville,
Kentucky
in 2008!

Carrie McCurdy / Contributing Columnist / Oklahoma Baptist University

THE THEME OF THIS YEAR’S CONVENTION WAS “CONFLUENCE.”

STUDENTS PUBLISHED IN SIGMA TAU DELTA’S ANNUAL LITERARY MAGAZINE *THE DELTA REVIEW* READ THEIR WORK.

CONVENTION-GOERS HEARD KEYNOTE SPEAKERS SHARON OLDS, DAVID RAKOFF, AND JIM DANIELS.



SIGMA TAU DELTA

Regional Contact Info:

SR— Kelly Brubaker
kelly.brubaker@okbu.edu

ASR— Tim Lloyd

tlloyd@stedwards@edu

Regent— Dr. Sidney Watson
sidney.watson@okbu.edu

VISIT US ONLINE:

WWW.ENGLISH.ORG

HAPPY READING!

Sigma Tau Delta's central purpose is to confer distinction upon students of the English language and literature in undergraduate, graduate, and professional studies.

Sigma Tau Delta also recognizes the accomplishments of professional writers who have contributed to the fields of language and literature.

One of the largest members of the Association of College Honor Societies, Sigma Tau Delta has over 600 active chapters, more than 900 faculty sponsors, and inducts approximately 7,000 members annually. Our members have the opportunity to receive recognition for their outstanding achievements, enrich their education, make more informed career choices, and advance their careers.

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

**CONGRATS TO
THE
REACTIVATED
PHI THETA
CHAPTER:**

**TEXAS
LUTHERAN
UNIVERSITY IN
SEGUIN, TX.**

DON'T FORGET!

**THE DEADLINE
FOR
APPLICATIONS TO
THE RECTANGLE
AND *THE DELTA*
REVIEW ARE
APRIL 30.**

THE SOUTHWESTERN...FACEBOOK?

If you are anything like me, you are utterly and shamelessly addicted to Facebook. (The thing I love most is reading the "status" updates. They're so creative!)

If only to prove that the literacy of English majors extends to computers as well as books, I've created a Sigma Tau Delta regional Facebook group, originally entitled "Sigma Tau Delta: (Southwestern Region)."

I think this will be a fun and convenient way for chapters to get to know each other. So if you're on Facebook, come join us! Stop by and introduce yourself, share your thoughts, and prepare to be befriended.

I can't wait to see your faces!

~Kelly

Sigma Tau Delta

The International English Honor Society