



Sigma Tau Delta

Spring 2007

NECESSARY CONTRADICTIONS: THE 2008 LOUISVILLE CONVENTION

Shannin Schroeder, 2008 Convention Chair, Southern Arkansas University



Paradoxes. Juxtapositions. Antinomies. Oxymorons. Contradictions. As a scholar of magical realism, I love them. I revel

in the notion that language allows for the marriage of words and ideas that otherwise seem completely incompatible. More specifically, I seek them out in texts. I note them in my margins: "It's boiling," a young Aureliano Buendía says about ice in *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. I taste them on my tongue, reading and rereading aloud Charles Baudelaire's line—from the aptly named poem "A Carcass"—"[a]nd the sky cast an eye on this marvelous meat / As over the flowers in bloom." I hoard them to share with friends: unbiased opinion, plastic silverware, jumbo shrimp.

These paradoxical or contradictory moments may reveal great truths about the universe and our place in it, or they may instead provide simple comic relief. Whatever their intent or result, pinning them down, teasing them apart until they unfold like an origami swan, does something special for us as readers. Contradictions require us to acknowledge the multitudes...and our own substantiality.

The 2008 Sigma Tau Delta convention invites you to celebrate contradiction in a city that is something of a paradox itself. Louisville was founded by a rebel—an American revolutionary general—yet is named for a



French aristocrat. The city and the adjacent Ohio River symbolized freedom for slaves escaping to the North but housed a booming slave trade in its day. Its Kentucky Derby spurs on gamblers from around the globe without Louisville forfeiting the charm and gentility of a Southern city. And this polished and urban locale still manages to conjure images of bluegrass music and rolling hills.

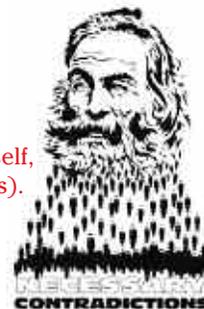
Attendance at the annual conventions continues to rise, and Louisville promises to be no exception. We will convene at the downtown Louisville Marriott, a new hotel within easy distance of the entertainment district. There, we will await your literary acumen. We will expect your intellectual vim.

But don't forget to pack the plastic silverware... just in case.

Louisville, March 5-8, 2008

Do I contradict myself?
Very well then I contradict myself,
(I am large, I contain multitudes).

—Walt Whitman,
Song of Myself



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The "V" Word

Lynzie Biggs, Student Advisor, Indiana University of Pennsylvania



What do you get when you cross a chilly evening in February, a stage crowded with women, chocolate vagina-shaped lollipops, and a conversation that begins: "*If your vagina got dressed, what would it wear?*" Give up? The answer:

Empowerment (and, more literally, a V-day showing of Eve Ensler's award-winning play, *The Vagina Monologues*).

As I escaped the cold winter air and stepped into the theatre that night, I expected, well, I'm not really sure what I expected. Up until that point, I had only heard bits and pieces about the growing phenomenon that is *The Vagina Monologues*. "It's a play where women talk about their, you know, *vaginas*," one friend prepped me upon hearing that I would be attending the show that evening. Only after experiencing it for myself

did I realize that this is not just hype and buzz over a shocking title, it's also a very important and poignant cultural movement.

I discovered that what I had witnessed was based on the interviews of over 200 women and girls (their ages ranging from six to seventy-five) about their sexuality, their fears, and their most private of all body parts. All of the monologues are based entirely on these real and intimate interviews with topics ranging from menstruation, sexual discovery, and angry vaginas to the dark and serious themes of rape and genital mutilation. With these interviews, Obie Award-winning playwright Eve Ensler compiled a masterpiece about the awkward and sometimes scary word "vagina." Her creation is guaranteed to forever change the way that both men (yes, men) and women see the female body and female sexuality.

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Peter A. Scholl, Luther College, IA



Everyone in the USA hears a lot about China these days. Most of the stuff for sale in Wal-Mart, so they say, is made there. Some people see China not only as an economic competitor—sellers have to confront the “China price”—but some also fear it as a looming military threat. Did you listen to the news that day in January when a Chinese missile destroyed a satellite in space? Almost every week-night, CNN showman Lou Dobbs fulminates about “Communist China” —so much so that some viewers must think “communist” is part of the real name of the People’s Republic.

There are a lot of reasons why China pops up on our radar so often. Our relationship with the Chinese is very old news, in fact, and the currents of influence run in both directions.

In 1784 the *Empress of China*, the first American ship built expressly for the China trade, sailed from New York to Canton. It wasn’t long before Americans were sipping Chinese tea out of porcelain cups emblazoned with George Washington or the American flag—custom made for the US market in China.

English majors would do well to do a little China watching. Traveling to, working in, reading about, or writing about China could be in your future.

English is huge in China. I wouldn’t be surprised if there aren’t more English teachers and students of English in The People’s Republic of China than there are in the USA and Great Britain combined. I didn’t look it up—but when you figure there are 1.3 billion people in the PRC and that English is a required course starting in middle school . . . well, you do the math! Or, considering what our common subject is, don’t do the math. Whatever the exact figures, there’s a whole *lot* of English teaching and learning going on! And there is great demand for native speakers of English to serve as teachers in all kinds of programs.

I have helped at least five English majors at my college since Y2K to get full-time ESL jobs in China right after graduation. I don’t think any of them had English Ed majors or special training, either. I visited a couple of them on the job, once in Changsha near Mao Zedong’s hometown, and once in Zhengjiang, a river town on the Yangtze. I finally got into the act myself, and I spent the last three summers in China on ESL projects—teaching Chinese English teachers in ’04 with a group called China Service Ventures; teaching high school students in ’05; and working as a “dean” with a group of eleven American volunteers teaching seven to fourteen-year-olds in ’06. Those last two summers I worked

with Global Language Villages in China, headquartered at Concordia College in Minnesota. Previous to actually doing it, I had no experience teaching ESL.

I don’t think flying off to China is for everyone, of course. But if you have the itch, you should scratch it—and finding leads shouldn’t be too hard. Several of my students have worked for a Chinese Christian group called the Amity Teacher’s Program, for example (www.amity.org/intern.html). It probably won’t turn out to be your life’s work, but you will be opening yourself to life-altering experiences.

At our last two conventions, ΣΤΔ hosted American writers who lived and taught English in China and later wrote books about their experiences there. Peter Hessler, author of *Rivertown* in 2001 and *Oracle Bones: A Journey Between China’s Past and Present* in 2006, was our guest in Kansas City in 2005. And Mark Salzman, author of *Iron and Silk* (1986), entertained and educated us in Portland in 2006. If you’d like to know what it would be like to teach there, those books will fill you in (Hessler is probably the place to start).

If you aren’t interested in going there, you might be interested in some good books about things Chinese. Here are a few of my picks, first of twentieth-century Chinese writers: Sheng Congwen, *Selected Short Stories*...; Lu Xun, *Diary of a Madman and Other Stories*; Ba Jin, *Family*; Yu Hua, *To Live*. And then there are some writers who came to adulthood in China but now live abroad, such as Jung Chang, *Wild Swans*...; Ha Jin, National Book Award for fiction in 1999 for *Waiting*; and a recent discovery—Fan Shen, an English teacher at Rochester Community College in Minnesota, author of *Gang of One: Memoirs of a Red Guard*, 2004.

Let me also mention a few of the many Chinese-American writers: Amy Tan (keynoter at the 1999 ΣΤΔ Convention); Maxine Hong Kingston; and Lan Samantha Chang (new head of the Iowa Writer’s Workshop).

Finally, I’d mention some of my favorite novels and memoirs by writers who are not of Chinese ethnicity: John Hersey, *The Call* (1985); Richard McKenna, *The Sand Pebbles* (1962); Pearl Buck, *The Good Earth* (1933) and her memoir, *My Several Worlds* (1954); and J.G. Ballard, *Empire of the Sun* (1984).

I’m ready to list my favorite Chinese films...but I’ve probably said enough already.



Lynzie Biggs

What shocked me the most, I think, while finding my seat at the performance, was the amount of men present in the audience. In the auditorium seating roughly 250 people, at least a fourth of them were men (some were even bold enough to be eating the aforementioned lollipops, and I even saw one donning the 2007 VM T-shirt). Seeing this made me realize that the problems women face are not only “women’s problems”—men need to be involved and educated as well in order for the violence to stop. And what better way to do this than through an emotionally charged and devilishly entertaining theatrical performance?

Since the play’s publication and initial performances, this female phenomenon has been sweeping the nation and is expanding throughout the world. With translations in over 24 languages, *The Vagina Monologue’s* empowerment is spreading to countries such as China, Israel, and Croatia (just to name a few). And, in 1997, Enslar and her monologues spawned the creation of

The “V” Word continued

an organization called V-Day. This group is solely dedicated to stopping violence against women and girls around the globe. With the help of celebrities, volunteers, college campuses, and other anti-violence groups, V-Day works to raise money for local women’s organizations and raises awareness about the devastating problems facing the female community. For more information on V-Day, please visit www.vday.org.

And so it is I walked into the theatre, sat down (timidly at that), laughed, cried, and was deeply touched by the powerful stories of these brave women. I left that evening with a broader sense of what womanhood means personally, but more importantly, what it means globally. So to end with the words of Eve Enslar (because, really, who can say it better?): “*In order for the human race to continue, women must be safe and empowered. It’s an obvious idea, but like a vagina, it needs great attention and love in order to be revealed.*”



Chapter Spotlight

Mary Theresa Hall, Chapter Sponsor, Thiel College, Greenville, PA

Serving as the advisor of the Alpha Iota Kappa Chapter at Thiel College, a liberal arts college in the Lutheran tradition in northwestern PA, located in Greenville, PA, is one of the most gratifying experiences of my professional life. My faculty colleagues in English and other departments are most supportive of the enthusiasm and vitality of our members and, in particular, our Chapter events, which have been consistently growing over the past eight years that we've been in existence and which earned us Outstanding Chapter recognition in 2005. Since 2000, we have inducted 96 members when Kevin Stemmler and the officers of the Clarion University Chapter initiated our Chapter and gave us our Charter.

If there is one attribute that I would deem necessary to the success of our Chapter it would have to be the students' willingness to work hard, recreate together, and plan creatively. I am a firm believer that the students' primary obligation is to their academic achievement, so I try not to impose on them multiple or mandatory meetings or duties. Consequently, each year since 2000, I have invited them to present papers at English conferences—papers that they have written in English classes—and so we have traveled to various conferences sponsored by the English Association of Pennsylvania State Universities (EAPSU) where we have delivered papers and participated in these wonderful events. I am grateful for this opportunity to acknowledge the always-gracious assistance of Kevin Stemmler (Clarion University) and Robert Crafton (Slippery Rock University) as well as the chairs of previous EAPSU conferences who welcome our students and me to these conferences that provide opportunities for both scholarly and social enrichment. I am proud that in March, for the first time since our inception, four of our students attended and presented papers at the Sigma Tau Delta annual convention.

But our focus is not purely academic. We also support the cast members of our theatrical productions by selling flowers at the fall and spring plays. We join with the Art department to sponsor a Night of the Creative Arts, which enables art majors to discuss their pieces and students interested in English to share their poems or reflections written by them or their favorite authors. Naturally, food accompanies this wonderfully enriching experience: food for the soul and body! Also in conjunction with the Art department, our Chapter publishes

The Phoenix, a creative journal that solicits art pieces, poems, and short stories from faculty, alumni, and students. Thiel College and our English department use this publication as an effective recruitment tool. I am proud of the work of our editors and editorial board in soliciting and selecting submissions and formatting this publication.



During our induction ceremony on March 25, we hosted Dr. Samuel Hazo, Director of the International Poetry Forum in Pittsburgh, PA, and former poet laureate of Pittsburgh, as our keynote speaker. Family members, friends, faculty, administrators, and students attend this annual event, which has become a highlight of our Chapter activities.

Our officers sponsor a study session before the week of final exams so all English students can prepare collaboratively.

We welcome new English majors and minors with a Food and Literary Games Get-Acquainted Event in early September, and we honor our graduating seniors with a Farewell Banquet in April.

On various occasions, our Chapter has assisted with literacy efforts at area grade and high schools and the Greenville Literacy Council.

About three years ago, we also initiated an English Club for students interested in the field of English. Many of these students eventually become eligible for Sigma Tau Delta.

I am also very proud of the fact that Thiel College has been designated as a recipient of monies from the Vira Heinz Scholarship foundation, totaling \$5,000 per student. Three students from Thiel are invited to study abroad for 4-6 weeks during the summer, and each year, many of the recipients from Thiel are Sigma Tau Delta members. Last summer, two students—Karen Mellor and Brooke Powell—studied in Czechoslovakia and England, respectively (see accompanying articles), and this summer, chapter member Allyson Waldon will also study in England.

We were invited to display some of our chapter highlights at the Convention, which we were very happy to do. We were excited to meet many of you in Pittsburgh!

My English Experience

Brooke N. Powell, Thiel College, PA

In the summer of 2006, my world was completely changed. I know that most students who travel overseas say that when they return home, but the simple fact remains: it is true. As a recipient of the Vira I. Heinz scholarship for study abroad, I was excited and very nervous to embark on my journey to England for one month. I have always wanted to experience the birthplace of the English language, as well as some of the most influential literature in the world. I attended Kingston University, located in Kingston-upon-Thames, England, where I was enrolled in the class Exploring Cultural London. The class I took was important, and I learned a great deal about England and London; but the experiences that took place while on my own are what showed me just how beautiful the English culture truly is, and why the people are able to compose such wonderful literature.

My time in England enriched my love of literature more than I could ever express. Visiting places such as the Poet's Corner in

Westminster Abbey and the reconstructed Globe Theatre breathed a new, vibrant life into those dusty works for me. However, the place that truly changed how I view literature was the Canterbury Cathedral. Towering over the city of Canterbury, Kent, the Cathedral took my breath away as it came into view on that busy freeway. Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* took on new meaning as I looked upon the worn stairs that was the last leg of Thomas à Becket's pilgrims. Not only do these walls contain an impressive amount of religion, history, and culture, but they are also rumored to contain J.K. Rowling's inspiration for one of the most important balls in fiction, "the snitch."

I am currently student-teaching in junior and senior high school English classes, and this English experience has provided me with more useful knowledge, simply because of the culture. The posters I brought home from the Globe have proven immensely helpful in our study of the Elizabethan period, and

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Study Abroad: *Pride and Prejudice* and Beatrix Potter

Stefanie Jochman, St. Norbert College, WI



If you're planning to spend a semester abroad and haven't yet applied for the Sigma Tau Delta Study Abroad Scholarship...get to work! And, if you've contemplated studying abroad but haven't filled out an application...what on earth are you waiting for?

While technology and increased transportation are making the world a

much smaller and more traversable place, no vacation can substitute for the experience of a semester abroad. I spent the Spring 2006 semester in Lancaster, England (just three hours north of London), and those six months changed—or, at the very least, enriched—the way I look at life and literature.

For some, the choice to study abroad is based on their major field of study; foreign language programs often require at least one semester abroad. However, much can still be learned by studying in an English-speaking culture. For the English major, living and studying in England is akin to a pilgrimage to Mecca. Here is a country that embraces, celebrates, and profits from its deep literary history—whether turning writers' homes into major tourist attractions or plastering larger-than-life book advertisements across the winding tunnels of London's Underground.

During my six months "across the pond" I had the great opportunity to visit popular sites like Shakespeare's Stratford, the Dickens Museum of London, and Haworth Parsonage, home of the Brontës, while marveling at The Reading Room of the British Museum, the British Library (check out its display of Beatles memorabilia for some amusing, albeit bittersweet, early recordings), the Irish Writers Museum of Dublin, and Chatsworth House, one of England's best "day-out" destinations and said to be the inspiration for Mr. Darcy's Pemberley in *Pride and Prejudice* (the exterior and some rooms of Chatsworth House were actually used in 2005's *Pride and Prejudice* movie). Sometimes, the most exciting travel moments happen by accident; in June, my cousin and I stumbled into a rowdy Bloomsday celebration in Dublin's Temple Bar. The revelers there, dressed in turn-of-the-century

garb, offered us free food, free Guinness, and many good wishes for the rest of our travels.

As exciting as it can be to re-live favorite moments in literature while traveling, the real adventure happens off the page. Studying abroad introduced me to wonderful people—from Margaret, my 70-year-old Irish seatmate who eased my travel fears and taught me how to take my tea during our transatlantic flight; to my British and Welsh flatmates who welcomed us into their hall community, despite our fondness for out-of-date slang; to the kindly old gentleman at a hostel who noticed my friend reading Arthur Ransome's *Swallows and Amazons* (a children's book about adventures in England's Lake District) and declared, "I've read everything—Dostoyevsky, the Russians, Dickens—and it's still my favorite book!" I was fortunate enough to travel to Ireland, Spain, Italy, Poland, and Scotland during my six months at Lancaster University, but a great experience abroad does not require as much plane travel or money. A warm cup of coffee (or tea!) and a comfortable bench in a bustling town square provide plenty of material for a good journal entry. A night in at a hostel offers stories from seasoned backpackers and plenty of cultural differences to debate.

For me, the "little moments" amidst seeing some of Europe's famous sites were what I treasured most about studying abroad. I have Sigma Tau Delta to thank for making the difference between simply enjoying an extended stay in England and embracing it as a second home. After four months, my funds were running low and my exam schedule gave me the chance to save money by leaving earlier than I had planned. When I found out I had earned the Sigma Tau Delta Study Abroad scholarship, however, I was able to make plans for a full two terms at "uni" (university). During those extra months I witnessed how the glory of an English summer day can make you forget about its otherwise rainy weather, celebrated World Cup football season, and engaged in an independent research project on Beatrix Potter.

As part of my Beatrix Potter project I visited Hill Top, the farmhouse that Potter purchased with royalties from *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, which is now a museum preserved in the manner of Potter's own meticulous instructions. Hill Top is located in

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Chapter Spotlight continued

My English Experience

Brooke N. Powell

Macbeth. The experiences that I am able to share bring the students' understanding to a level that reaches deeper than if I had not been able to embark on such a journey. My time in London is marked by a series of memories that I think help my students to understand how important it is to step outside of their normal boundaries and undergo a change within themselves.

The month of July saw many transformations within my personality, many of which would not have taken place without this experience. I was also able to visit Edinburgh, Scotland; Paris, France; and Rome, Italy in my travels, but England will forever be my muse when trying to teach English literature to high school students wrapped up in a world of iPods, prom, and Abercrombie. My love of literature and the English language has grown to a paramount level. My heart will continue to ache for those train rides into London, calling at Wimbledon, Clapham Junction, Vauxhall, and Waterloo.



Jak se Dostanu k Kolej?: My Summer in the Czech Republic

Karen Mellor, Thiel College, PA

Sunday, 1 June 2006

My classes this week have gone well. I like my teachers, and the other students are just as ready to get out and explore as I am. Plus, Prague is so beautiful. I love the fact that this city is old, not in the American sense of the word, and so steeped in history.

Thursday, 5 June 2006

I went to the Museum of Communism this morning. It was small, cramped, and inadequate. How can so devastating an event be commemorated in five rooms? Everything was unbelievably unbiased, informative, and sterile. Communism took away the Czechs' freedom, catalogued their every move, and forced them to abandon free thought.... Oh. Perhaps this is why the museum has only five rooms. Perhaps it is also why the museum is next to a McDonald's—how ironic.

Friday, 13 June 2006

I saw *The Lady of the Camelias* at the ballet today with a friend, Sara. The show was breathtaking; I never tire of watching ballet

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Sigma Tau Delta Made Me Live in the Jungle

Erik Campbell

If I had to come up with a chain of causality explaining why I live in the middle of a tropical rainforest and try to write poems and essays, I think that Sigma Tau Delta might prove to be ultimately responsible. But more on this in a minute. First, a little anecdote...

A few months ago some representatives from the US Embassy in Jakarta came to Papua, Indonesia, where my wife and I have lived since 2002. As my wife and I are among the few Americans in Kuala Kencana (one of two mining towns in west Papua), we were asked to attend lunch with these embassy folks. For the record, I dislike talking to most embassy people because they seem to be either 1) excessively maladjusted people who had to leave the States in order to seem well-adjusted, or 2) individuals who think that hundreds of passport stamps are commensurate with superiority and look upon people who don't travel extensively with pity and/or contempt. This is to say I wasn't too jazzed about lunch.

About ten minutes before we were to report to lunch, my wife called and informed me that she wouldn't be attending because angry members of the Amungme tribe (one of the seven tribes in the area) had surrounded her office and wouldn't let anyone leave. They had even chopped down several trees, thus barricading the road to her building. The Amungme seemed to mean business.

"But what do they *want*?" I asked.

"I don't know. I think they have demands."

"What sort of demands?"

"I think they're of the demanding variety," she said.

But I wasn't worried about my wife. Security guards had already arrived by the time she called me, and such demonstrations happen here from time to time and invariably involve more bluster than bite. I was, frankly, more worried about having lunch with the embassy people.

Shari and her staff were soon released because the Amungme had difficulty deciding what their demands were. I went to lunch and hated every minute.

The above is the sort of thing passes for normal here. I *asked* for this.



For the last five years, Shari and I have lived in Papua, Indonesia, where we work for an American mining company; she works in corporate responsibility, and I work part time as a technical writer. The rest of the time (which is most of the time) I try to write creatively, focusing on poetry and essays. We moved to Papua so that she could further her career in corporate responsibility and development, and so that I could have time to try to write, after spending several years as a high school English teacher.

It is probably no startling revelation that most people working in the mining industry aren't overly interested in literature; this is precisely as it should be, as one probably shouldn't be pondering Yeats while working with explosives or running a concentrator. The pursuit of poetic abstractions in a mining community surfeited with brute particulars and commodities market watchers is odd at best—but the poet is *always* an oddity, regardless of geography. Outside of certain very small circles, poetry just isn't popular anymore and seems to be a fruitless pursuit, best suited for men in powdered wigs who say "methinks" or to Beatniks with bongo drums. To be a poet these days is like being an alchemist or phrenologist or something equally esoteric and odd—for reasons too numerous to list, being a poet is anachronistic.

The question: in light of all these hurdles—psychological, economic, anachronistic, and other—why would anyone choose to spend their days trying to write poems? My answer: because sometimes people fall in love with words and writing, then try their hand at writing something, and sometimes receive a bit of encouragement for doing so. In my case, Sigma Tau Delta is the reason I decided to try my hand at writing seriously, and the organization also gave me the guts to continue. This is to say that Sigma Tau Delta is to blame.

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Familiarity



She woke up one morning confronting linearity.
By noon she was certain, with mid-twenties tenacity,
That the familiar was what made time slow. And now, newly
Thirty, and having read Kundera long ago, she is concerned

With lightness and weight, suspecting that even
The laws of gravity (things just seem *heavier*
Than they did at twenty-nine) have recognized her age.
She tells him over dinner that what we call "familiarity"

Is really a certain type of *slowness*, and that the symptoms
Are legion. "It's all in my mind," she said, "this malaise—
And in yours. Only now I have come to *doubt*." So
She's outlined a partial plan to combat the familiar.

The first step is that they occasionally give each other
New names, novel ways of reckoning with their domestic,
Pavlovian choreography. In order to be tourists of their own
Home most of the furniture will have to go, and to find

Their city buoyant and strange they will need to go to India
Soon. They will drink white wine instead of red, take baths
At night in lieu of morning showers, and revise their lives
Whenever repetition risks bordering on anything resembling

Belief, density, or languidness. The other night before bed
She called him "James" and asked about his day. He remembered
Her name for that week was "Lynn," said his day went so
Quickly, and got into his new side of the bed. "Good night,

James," she said. "Oh, I almost forgot. I want us to have a baby
Immediately and name it *Feather*—boy or girl. *Feather*, that is,
To begin with." He lay there and nodded at her feet, unfamiliarly
Touching the headboard; she sighed, turned her head and kissed

His ankle. The bedside clock that was no longer there
Would have read 5:30 P.M.; it was in the basement with
Their wedding photos, wine corks from memorable parties,
Formerly favorite novels, surrounded by other weighty relics.

"Familiarity" and "Strongbox" (found on page 7)
by Erik Campbell
from *Arguments for Stillness*,
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2006 Chapter Anniversaries

! 75th Chapter Anniversary (founded in 1931)

Coker College, Pi Gamma (Hartsville, SC)
Louisiana Tech University (Rho Gamma, Ruston, LA)
Minnesota State University, Moorhead, Mu Gamma (Moorhead, MN)
Northern State University, Xi Gamma, Aberdeen, SD)
University of Nebraska, Omaha, Kappa Gamma, Omaha, NE)

! 50th Chapter Anniversary (founded in 1956)

Athens State University, Kappa Zeta (Athens, AL)
Carthage College, Epsilon Zeta (Kenosha, WI)
Lipscomb University, Mu Zeta (Nashville, TN)
Long Island University, Brooklyn, Omicron Zeta (Brooklyn, NY)
McNeese State University, Pi Zeta (Lake Charles, LA)
Texas Wesleyan University, Nu Zeta (Fort Worth, TX)
University of Louisiana, Lafayette, Lambda Zeta (Lafayette, LA)
University of Tampa, Rho Zeta (Tampa, FL)
University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, Theta Zeta (Eau Claire, WI)

! 25th Chapter Anniversary (founded in 1981)

Albion College, Nu Pi (Albion, MI)
Alvernia College, Kappa Pi (Reading, PA)
Berea College, Xi Pi (Berea, KY)
Birmingham-Southern College, Beta Pi (Birmingham, AL)
East Central University, Upsilon Pi (Ada, OK)
Hartwick College, Gamma Pi (Oneonta, NY)
Kennesaw State University, Eta Pi (Kennesaw, GA)
Manhattan College, Beta Pi (Riverdale, NY)
Millikin University, Lambda Pi (Decatur, IL)
Mount Marty College, Delta Pi (Yankton, SD)
Norwich University, Tau Omicron (Northfield, VT)
Pace University, Pleasantville, Sigma Pi (Pleasantville, NY)
Spring Hill College, Omicron Pi (Mobile, AL)
The Citadel, Rho Pi (Charleston, SC)
University of Memphis, Psi Omicron (Memphis, TN)
University of South Alabama, Pi Pi (Mobile, AL)
University of West Alabama, Chi Omicron (Livingston, AL)
University of West Georgia, Pi Omicron (Carrollton, GA)

! 20th Chapter Anniversary (founded in 1986)

Albany State University, Zeta Phi (Albany, GA)
Boise State University, Zeta Upsilon (Boise, ID)

California Polytechnic State University, Sigma Upsilon
(San Luis Obispo, CA)
College of Saint Rose, Beta Phi (Albany, NY)
DeSales University, Upsilon Chi (Center Valley, PA)
Erskine College, Xi Phi (Due West, SC)
Illinois College, Rho Phi (Jacksonville, IL)
Jacksonville University, Iota Upsilon (Jacksonville, FL)
Keene State College, Upsilon Phi (Keene, NH)
Loyola College, Maryland, Rho Upsilon (Baltimore, MD)
Loyola University, New Orleans, Omega Upsilon (New Orleans, LA)
Mercer University, Tau Upsilon (Macon, GA)
Mesa State College, Tau Phi, Grand Junction, CO)
Morgan State University, Pi Upsilon (Baltimore, MD)
Mount Union College, Upsilon Upsilon (Alliance, OH)
Northern Michigan University, Eta Phi (Marquette, MI)
Old Dominion University, Nu Upsilon (Norfolk, VA)
Rider University, Nu Phi (Lawrenceville, NJ)
Saint Joseph's University, Omicron Phi (Philadelphia, PA)
San Diego Christian College, Alpha Phi (El Cajon, CA)
Suffolk University, Eta Upsilon (Boston, MA)
SUNY, University at Albany, Theta Phi (Albany, NY)
Texas A&M University, Kingsville, Gamma Phi (Kingsville, TX)
University of Houston, Epsilon Phi (Houston, TX)
University of Southern Indiana, Mu Phi (Evansville, IN)
Ursinus College, Phi Upsilon (Collegeville, PA)
Valparaiso University, Kappa Phi (Valparaiso, IN)

! 15th Chapter Anniversary (founded in 1991)

Brigham Young University, Hawaii, Alpha Beta Delta (Laie, HI)
Clark Atlanta University, Alpha Beta Beta (Atlanta, GA)
Hampton University, Alpha Beta Zeta (Hampton, VA)
Hastings College, Alpha Alpha Psi (Hastings, NE)
Lee University, Alpha Beta Iota (Cleveland, TN)
Mercy College, Alpha Alpha Phi (Dobbs Ferry, NY)
North Georgia College and State University, Alpha Beta Epsilon
(Dahlonega, GA)
South Dakota State University, Alpha Alpha Chi (Brookings, SD)
University of Missouri, St. Louis, Alpha Beta Alpha (St. Louis, MO)
Wingate University, Alpha Beta Gamma (Wingate, NC)
Xavier University of Louisiana, Alpha Beta Eta (New Orleans, LA)

Jak se Dostanu k Kolej?:

My Summer in the Czech Republic continued

Karen Mellor

dancers. Hopefully, this will not be the last ballet I see, but if it is, I am satisfied.

Saturday, 14 June 2006

This evening, most of our group went to a film screening at an open-air theater on an island in the middle of the Vltava. It was called *Something Like Happiness*. It was incredibly good; miserable, but at the same time inspiring and uplifting. It ended on a rather depressing note, but I somehow couldn't be disappointed (as I usually am with inadequate endings). I like Czech films—they are much more expository and creative than American films.

Sunday, 15 June 2006

I began reading *The Unbearable Lightness of Being* for class a few days ago. It is coloring my world and affecting my perceptions and opinions. My brain has awakened. In every aspect, the author carefully incorporates his idea that human existence is so light because each human is only granted one chance. The juxtaposed ideas of Communism and freedom, sex and love, and fact and perception form the many layers of the plot. I may have discovered a new favorite author.

Saturday, 21 June 2006

We arrived back in Prague last night after a five-day trip around Central Europe. We visited ěeskĕ Krumlov, a southern Czech town; Vienna, Austria; Budapest, Hungary; and Bratislava, Slovakia. The trip was illuminating, and now that I am back in Prague, I feel more like a local city-dweller than ever. This has not occurred to me before—perhaps Prague has stolen my heart.

Sunday, 3 July 2006

This will be one of my last journal entries. It is Sunday night, and I am sitting in the lobby of the dorm with Sara as we cram for our finals tomorrow. This week will be fairly busy, with finals and the farewell party on Thursday. I leave early Friday morning. It is difficult to believe, and I am quite sad. I think I might be ready to go home, though. I am ready to sleep in my own bed, talk to my sister, play with my dog, drive my car, and eat good Mexican, Chinese, and doughnuts. Home will feel so different, but I hope to come back as soon as possible. No matter where the future takes me, I will always remember Prague as the place that awakened my mind, soul, and heart.

Stefanie Jochman

Sawrey, part of England's Lake District, a cluster of small villages in the northwest of England that boasts one of the country's most beautiful natural landscapes. Not only did I learn more about Potter's life from seeing her tiny farmhouse and treasured belongings up close, but, as I walked the tiny trails from town to Hill Top or read on the shore of Lake Windermere, I also began to realize why she worked so diligently to protect and preserve the area. The chance to have made such a personal connection with Potter and her work was invaluable to my research.

No matter what the destination may be, I hope that anyone who decides to study abroad will live by the lyrics of a song I heard while attending a Celtic music festival in Glasgow, Scotland:

"There are tall ships that never set sail,
People on ledges who don't see the view,
There are tame birds, afraid to go free,
But, child, don't let that be you"

I am so grateful for the chance to have spread my wings and flown across the Atlantic for a very memorable six months abroad. I hope that many more English majors will get a chance to make their pilgrimage, enjoying every adventure along the way.

Stefanie Jochman received the Sigma Tau Delta Study Abroad Scholarship for the 2005-2006 academic year and the Sigma Tau Delta Scholarship for 2006-2007. In addition, Stefanie has been an editorial intern for the Sigma Tau Delta publications for the last two years.

Erik Campbell

When I was a sophomore at Nebraska Wesleyan University, my Sigma Tau Delta faculty sponsor, Dr. Mary Smith, gave me a copy of Sigma Tau Delta's literary journal, *The Rectangle*. *The Rectangle* was the first literary journal I had ever read, as previously I had only read poetry anthologies and individual author collections. Consequently, *The Rectangle* was the first quality literary arts publication I read that wasn't solely peopled by prize winners and critically established essayists and poets; it was instead a gathering place for my *peers*. In short, it inspired me to start writing seriously. To quit playing around. Eventually it occurred to me that I could submit to *The Rectangle*, because I was a member of Sigma Tau Delta, had a few poems to share that I wasn't embarrassed of, and had nothing to lose but postage. So I mustered up a modicum of bravado and submitted.

A few months after submitting, Mary handed me my acceptance letter after her Romantic Literature class (already opened because she was "excited"). I found that *The Rectangle* had accepted *two* of my poems, and I was shamelessly happy. I must have carried the letter in my pocket for a week. Had I thought of it at the time, I'm sure I would have safety-pinned it to my chest, kindergarten-style, like a note home. And although this acceptance came over ten years ago now, when I think about that day it returns to me vividly, like a Proustian rush—the nearly palpable electricity, the smile on Mary's face, the thrill of being found worthy of publication, the feeling that I had the right to keep going, keep trying. It was an acceptance letter in *every* sense. I felt as though someone had cracked the door to creative, written expression a bit, and I could hear one hell of a party going on inside. And I was invited in.

Sigma Tau Delta's purpose is to promote literature, writing, and to advance the study of the written word. I realize that this may sound maudlin, but *The Rectangle* and Sigma Tau Delta gave me the courage to risk absurdity and rejection and to continue to try my best to contribute to literature, and, of course, this led to a great deal of further study and a deeper and fuller appreciation of words and ideas. Were it not for *The Rectangle's* initial positive nod—had they not invited me to the party—I wouldn't be typing right now in the middle of the jungle, the rain pounding outside, typing and feeling correct. Feeling like I have some right to write this.

This is to say I'm grateful.

Strongbox

Erik Campbell

■ You bought the box last week and now
■ We are filling it with the important things:
■ Car titles, birth certificates, letters
■ From the editor and every conceivable

Warranty. The man told you
It was indestructible, that should a fire
Break out of anywhere at any time
Our future would be fine. The box

Will seal itself at a certain temperature
And contain the truth that we were born,
Had insurance, a place to belong, and cars
In our names. All of this, he said, will survive

The flames. It's our time capsule, you said,
Our agreement with the inevitable, a warranty
Against time and what happens when
We move through it. And if it's true

That in this adult world every mistake
Is made by a professional, then we
Have a lunatic desire to turn up the heat
Just to see. We will, you tell me,

Have to make copies of the key, hide
One under the plant by the window,
Put the others on our key rings,
Sometime soon. Then, you assure me,

We can leave the house with the door open
Wide to the whole exploding world; we'll
Be busy mocking inferno and inevitability
With everything running. Feeling fireproof.

And for a time we'll confuse this with love.

Arguments for Stillness



Erik Campbell graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1995. Since 2002 he has lived in Papua, Indonesia, where it rains every day. His first poetry collection, Arguments for Stillness (Curbstone Press, 2006), was recently named by Book Sense as one of the top ten poetry collections for 2007. His poems have recently appeared in The New Orleans Review, Gulf Coast, and New Delta Review and his essay, "The Accidental Plagiarist," will appear in the spring 2007 issue of The Virginia Quarterly Review. He and his wife are planning to leave the jungle this summer and live somewhere where it doesn't rain so much.

poems by
Erik Campbell

E. Nelson James: A Man of Means



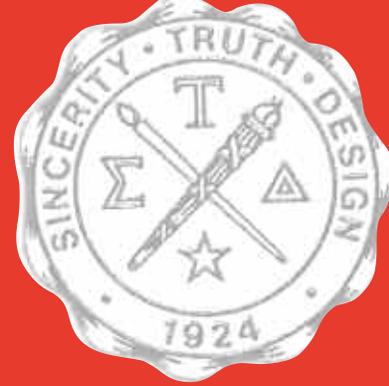
Carrie Fitzpatrick, Historian, Alvernia College, PA

The 1960s were a tumultuous time in American history. The decade is known for the Civil Rights movement, hippies and Woodstock, the Vietnam War and Cold War, and the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. What many people don't know is that the turmoil of the 1960s was echoed in the history of Sigma Tau Delta. Judson Q. Owen established Sigma Tau Delta in 1924 at Dakota Wesleyan University, but in 1965, after many years of admirable service, he wrote a letter to all sponsors resigning his post as Executive Secretary so that "a younger and more alert person would come forward and take over." Unfortunately, no one came forward. This brought about significant stress and upheaval for Sigma Tau Delta. Over the following four years, although Owens continued to publish *The Rectangle*, sponsors were told to hold all national fees until a replacement was found. In a 1967 issue of *The Rectangle*, Owen once more made a plea for someone to take over the Executive Secretary post. Again, no one responded. After Owens' death in 1969, Sigma Tau Delta had little money or support. Despite the unpromising situation, E. Nelson James, a professor at Northern Illinois University, stepped up to the challenge and volunteered for the position.

When James was appointed Executive Secretary in 1969, he knew he had a long struggle ahead to keep the organization active. One of his primary goals was for Sigma Tau Delta to become a member of the ACHS (Association of College Honor Societies). In a letter James wrote on April 4, 2006, he recalls, "I applied for membership in the mail, but I was invited to attend the annual meeting of ACHS in New Orleans. At this meeting I was first made aware of Lambda Iota Tau, which had been formed by former sponsors of Sigma Tau Delta chapters, who thought that Sigma Tau Delta was defunct." James assured the ACHS admissions committee that Sigma Tau Delta was still alive, and one year later, his application was approved.

Over the next few years, James played a crucial role in reorganizing the society. His determination was instrumental in establishing a Board of Directors, a revised constitution, and a convention with representation from each of the newly organized regions. In his 2006 letter, James expressed his uncertainty about that 1970 convention. "We had to plan for the convention, but who would attend? Was I relieved on the first day of the convention when Richard Cloyd and a station wagon of students from Kearney showed up, Frank Leavell and a station wagon of students from Texas came, and Elva Bell McLin and students from Athens State College came...." The convention was a success.

From 1969-1982, James handled the day-to-day office activities for chapter applications, membership certificates, and *Rectangle* manuscript submissions, all the while teaching English at NIU, authoring and acting in plays, and raising a family. His achievements and sacrifices created the foundation for the successful organization that exists today. Sigma Tau Delta owes a debt of gratitude to E. Nelson James, a man of means.



The International English Honor Society

Sincerity • Truth • Design

Member of the Association of College Honor Societies, Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society is chartered in Illinois in accordance with the laws of the United States as a non-profit, educational organization. Founded in 1924, the society serves university and college chapters, providing recognition for academic excellence in the study of English.

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2006 Sponsor Anniversaries

35th Sponsor Anniversary (started in 1971)

- Nelson Sager, Sul Ross State University (Alpine, TX)
- Linda McGinley, West Liberty State College (West Liberty, WV)

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