confluence 1: a coming or flowing together, meeting, or gathering at one point 2: a flowing together of two or more streams 3: the combined stream formed by conjunction, e.g. the Ohio river formed by the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers; “the lost generation” formed by American expatriates and post World War I Europe; the Bloomsbury group; Andy Warhol’s Factory; the 2007 international convention formed by the members of Sigma Tau Delta and the city of Pittsburgh.

Our theme asks you to consider how varying traditions, influences, or figures come together to produce something that is new, unique, or different. Students and active alumni are invited to submit original short fiction, poetry, and personal and analytical essays focusing on or relating to the convention theme, Confluence, or any subject of interest to the English discipline. Students, faculty, and active alumni may also consider proposing panel presentations.

Submissions for papers and panels must be postmarked by November 30, 2006. Guidelines for submissions can be found at www.english.org.

Phenomenal Pittsburgh!

Email sigmatd@niu.edu if you need help finding a roommate. Please include:
• Your name and school
• Your address, email address, phone number
• Your gender
• Dates you need a roommate
• Whether you have made hotel reservations
• Number of roommates you wish

Please note: your request must be received by February 23, 2007. Sigma Tau Delta is not responsible for roommate compatibility. Attendees are responsible for their own reservations and expenses.
**Keynote Speaker**

**Friday Evening, March 30**

Sharon Olds, recognized as a major voice in contemporary American poetry, is the author of eight books of poetry, most recently *Strike Sparks*, a selection of her work from 1980–2002. Her poems cover subjects such as childhood, sexual awakening, marriage, and parenthood. These subjects are treated in a frank, bold voice that marks Olds’s unique style.

**Featured Speakers**

**Thursday Evening, March 29**

David Rakoff is the author of two books, *Fraud* and *Don’t Get Too Comfortable*, and is a regular contributor to NPR’s “This American Life.” You’ve likely read his work in *Esquire*, *Vogue*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and *Gourmet*. His beautifully crafted essays are often funny and biting observations about contemporary American life.

**Saturday Evening, March 31**

Jim Daniels, the Thomas Stockman Baker Professor of English and director of the creative writing program at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, is the author of nine books of poems, including *Show and Tell: New and Selected Poems* (2003), which was a finalist for the Paterson Poetry Prize. His most recent work is *Street* (2005), a book of poems accompanying the photographs of Charlee Brodsky. *Mr. Pleasant*, his third book of short stories, will be published in 2007.

**Registration**

Everyone, including presenters, must register to attend the Convention.

**Early Registration**

Registration form and payment postmarked by February 23, 2007.

- $50 for student presenters
- $60 for nonpresenters, faculty, alumni, guests

**Late/On-Site Registration**

After February 23, 2007, the late registration fee is $80 for all participants. After March 16, 2007, participants must register on-site at the registration desk and pay the $80 late registration fee.

Download a registration form at www.english.org.

**Hotel**

All official Convention activities will take place in the Hilton Pittsburgh. Located at 600 Commonwealth Place, the hotel is one of the city’s largest, most recognized hotels, ideally situated in downtown Pittsburgh and adjacent to Point State Park and Pittsburgh’s famed Three Rivers (the “confluence”).

Make your reservations no later than March 6, 2007. Room rates are $109 per night for singles/doubles/triples/quads (excluding taxes). Make your reservations early—only a limited number of rooms are available at this rate! To reserve a room, call 1-800-HILTONS and be sure to ask for the SIΩA discount. Hotel reservations can be made online by going to the SIΩA Convention website at www.english.org/pittsburgh/index.html.

**Ground Transportation**

The Hilton Pittsburgh is located 17 miles from Pittsburgh International Airport.

**Airport Shuttle**

The Express Shuttle ticket desk that is located in the baggage claim area (next to the Thrifty Rental Car desk) charges $34 ($32 for students with school ID card) for a roundtrip fare to the Hilton. No reservations are necessary. The shuttle leaves the airport every 30 minutes from 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM each day. For the return trip to the airport, Express Shuttle picks up at the Hilton at 15 minutes before the hour starting at 4:45 AM until 9:45 AM. For more information about Express Shuttle, call (412) 472-3180.

**Driving Directions**

The Hilton Pittsburgh is located at 600 Commonwealth Place. Driving directions to the hotel are available at www.hilton.com. Valet parking is available at the hotel for $24.00 per day; self-parking is $17.00 per day.

**ΣΤΔ National Service Project**

**Book Drive for the Homeless Children’s Education Fund**

The HCEF (Homeless Children’s Education Fund) is a non-profit organization that helps children in the Pittsburgh area. Please take part in this worthy cause and donate items at the convention this spring. A cash donation will be made to HCEF in the name of one donating chapter (to be selected by drawing). A suggested list of possible items for children in pre-kindergarten to the sixth grade includes:

- Reading books (age-appropriate)
- Picture books
- Beginning readers
- Books that depict diversity and urban life
- Bookmarks
- Art supplies
- Crayons
- Construction paper
- Colored pencils
- Pens/pencils

**Chapter Sponsor Workshop**

Back by popular demand! On Thursday morning, March 29, discuss the issues that sponsors face in fostering chapter involvement, recruiting new members, and developing chapter leaders. This workshop for chapter sponsors is led by Sandra Mayfield and Marybeth DeMeco, sponsors of Outstanding Chapter Award winning chapters. Professor Mayfield, a former Southwestern Regent, has been sponsor for the Chi Gamma chapter at the University of Central Oklahoma since 1999. Professor DeMeco, a former Eastern Regent and a former SIΩA President, has been the Kappa Pi chapter sponsor at Alvernia College (Pennsylvania) since 1981.

**Leadership Workshop**

Learn from SIΩA’s most successful chapters! The Student Representatives and Student Advisors are sponsoring *Confluence*: Merging for Success on Thursday morning, March 29. The workshop features two breakout sessions:

**Session 1:**
- Fundraising
- Service
- Small Chapter Development
- Chapter Administration

**Session 2:**
- Fundraising
- Service
- Publishing a Literary Journal
- Regional & National Involvement

**Common Reader**

Sharon Olds’s collection of poems, *Strike Sparks*, has been selected as the 2006–2007 Common Reader. The goal of the Common Reader is to celebrate the works of our featured speakers, to provide a common text for our own reading and enjoyment, and to establish a focus for chapter activities fostering literacy and the pleasures of reading in our local communities. Sigma Tau Delta is offering $150 for the best convention presentation (in any genre) featuring the Common Reader.

**Chapter Administration**

**Small Chapter Development**

**Service**

**Fundraising**

**Session 1**

- Publishing a Literary Journal
- Regional & National Involvement

**Session 2**

- Publishing a Literary Journal
- Regional & National Involvement