

SIGMA TAU DELTA

The International English Honor Society



Eastern Regional Newsletter, Fall 2004

Greetings From Eastern Regent and Eastern Regional Student Representative

Greetings everyone! I hope everything is going well in all chapters and I thank you for emailing me your questions. I know that the year is going by very quickly and we are all very busy, so keep working as best as you can and don't forget about all of the excitement we have coming up in the spring.

Another note: to avoid confusion, I felt the need to warn everyone that this newsletter is in a different format than usual. The columns now run in standard newsletter format. Thanks for your patience and thank you to everyone who contributed to this newsletter.

~Autumn Brown,
Eastern SR

Attractions

The Annual Convention, March 16-20, 2004, Kansas City, MO

The 2004-05 academic year is now well under way, and I hope Eastern Region chapters are moving forward with their projects and plans. As always, the highlight of *Sigma Tau Delta's* activities is the annual convention, to be held this year in Kansas City, Missouri. Featured speakers include Jamaica Kincaid, poet Henri Cole, and Peter Hessler, whose book *River Town: Two*

Years on the Yangtze chronicles his adventures as a Peace Corp volunteer teaching English in Fuling—an exciting lineup as always and truly an opportunity not to be missed. The deadline for submissions will once again be Nov. 25.

The *STD* convention remains one of the great bargains in academics. Early registration fees are still set at \$50 for students, and first-class accommodations at the Westin will run \$105 per night at the convention rate. Chapters represented at the business meeting will continue to receive a \$100 check from the organization to help defray costs. And, as an added incentive, I will kick in an additional \$50 for chapters attending the convention for the first time (or, at least, the first time in recent memory). The combined \$150 represents registration and one night's lodging (or two, if you share a room). If your chapter has not attended a convention recently, and you would like to apply for \$50 to pay the registration fees for one student, email your request to me at robert.crafton@sru.edu. I can support up to twenty applications.

Also new this year, the annual convention has chosen a common reader, Jamaica Kincaid's *Lucy*. It is our hope that chapters will read *Lucy*, and that they will, where

possible, plan activities around the reading of *Lucy* and Jamaica Kincaid's other works as a way of celebrating our featured speaker and the joys of reading. And to help kick off the common reader program, the Service Committee will be sponsoring a \$150 award for the best convention presentation featuring *Lucy*. So get busy. You all have your assignments.

Bob Crafton, Eastern Regent, Slippery Rock University

Spring Convention Book Drive

As always, Sigma Tau Delta is using its annual convention to campaign for literacy. Last year we worked with the Volusia Literacy Center in Daytona Beach and the book drive was a big success. We want this year to be even better. Everyone should bring at least one book and anyone who does not bring a book should donate a dollar a more to our cause for literacy. Any book for any age range is acceptable—our partners, Partnership for Children and Kansas City's Promise, will make sure the books go to the right place. These agencies strive to ensure no Kansas City area child will be left without the tools to succeed. Books are allocated by greatest need, but most frequently go to the Whatsoever Community Center community library and participating children, Independence Academy's alternative high school student population, and Reach Out and Read's mission to give books to sick children. In addition to providing this information, Kathy Turner has sent the link for the Kansas City Promise website if you would like to learn more.

http://www.pfc.org/promise_about.shtml

~Autumn Brown

The Pennsylvania Undergraduate English Majors Conference, April 15, 2004, Kutztown University

I have received a number of enquiries about the Eastern Region sponsoring a regional conference. In fact, the English Association of the Pennsylvania State Universities (EAPSU) currently sponsors an annual convention for undergraduate English majors which is held every year in mid April, the site rotating among the fourteen state system universities. Kutztown University is sponsoring this year's conference, which is scheduled for Friday, April 15, 2005. Submissions are due February 1. Kutztown is conveniently located in southeastern Pennsylvania, midway between Reading and Allentown on Route 222, approximately two hours from New York City, an hour and a half from Philadelphia, three hours from the Baltimore/Washington area. And it is distinctly affordable. Registration for the one-day conference typically runs around \$25, which usually includes a meal. The official call for papers is due out any day now. If you would like more information, email me and I'll see that you get the information. Or you can check the EAPSU website at www.eapsu.org for updates on the undergrad conference. So here's another challenge: I expect to see chapters from Maryland, New Jersey, New York, even Ohio and West Virginia, represented on the program. We welcome participation from all across the Eastern Region. Please, join us in Pennsylvania to celebrate spring and the power of the written word in all its forms. Think Chaucer, pilgrimage, T.S. Eliot, and all that April represents.

Bob Crafton, Eastern Regent, Slippery Rock University

Reading for The Cure to Benefit Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation

Students, faculty, and members of the community gathered together at Clarion University on October 15, 2004 in support of a good cause. The English Club and Sigma Tau Delta held the seventh annual Reading for the Cure, where all proceeds are donated to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Nearly thirty people read a combination of their favorite authors and their own writings in honor and memory of their loved ones.

Local businesses and individuals donated door prizes to raffle off. Raffle tickets were also sold for a handmade quilt with quotes sewn on that was made and donated by Sally Byers, which will be raffled off at the end of October. Last year's reading raised approximately \$1,600. With this donation, Clarion University's English Club and Sigma Tau Delta has appeared on the back of Pittsburgh's Race for the Cure t-shirts. By the end of the reading, nearly \$1,500 had been raised with a couple weeks left for additional fundraising. The members hope to meet and surpass last year's donation. The reading was an emotional event that was successful in continuing to reach out to make a difference in the lives of others.

Heather Lewis, Clarion University

Chapter Spotlight: Alvernia College

The Kappa Pi Chapter has been busy this fall with fundraisers for the Kansas City convention, running bake sales and selling pizza and cookies for Christmas. They designed and sold Alvernia T-shirts. On Oct. 1, nine students traveled to New Jersey to attend the Dodge Poetry Festival. Kappa Pi is making plans to participate in Christmas on Campus and is currently running a book drive.

Beth DeMeo