

Sigma Tau Delta Eastern Region



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Meet the New 08-09 SR Katherine St. Martin, Eastern SR

Greetings from the Granite State! As spring approaches and we all gear up for commencement ceremonies and finals, I wish you all the best of luck – extending, of course, to the reams of papers that we all are fated to write this time of year.

I hail from Keene State College in Keene, NH, a wonderful liberal arts institution that welcomed me with open arms after earning my Associate in Arts degree in Teacher Education from New Hampshire Community Technical College in Claremont, NH. As I approach my "super senior" year and earning my double certification in Secondary English Education and Secondary Social Studies Education, I look to the future with excitement and wonder. My future goals include teaching for a period of time and eventually attending law school, specializing in education law. I have no doubt that the power of the English language and the writing skills I have honed over the years will serve me well, as I hope

each and every one of you are discovering as you move through your undergraduate careers.

As your new Student Representative, I couldn't be more thrilled to represent the 200+ chapters of the Eastern Region. The ideas that Brittany and I mentioned at the 2008 Regional Caucus in Louisville are not idle dreams, but bona fide plans. The first of these is an Eastern Region literary journal. Keep your eyes open for want ads throughout this newsletter seeking writing submissions and artwork. Other exciting plans in store include regional get-togethers, a regional website, the development of a leadership workshop for each of your chapters and, of course, any ideas that *you* come up with. Brittany and I are here to serve you, and we couldn't do it without your feedback. So please don't hesitate to drop us a line, even if just to say hello, as we're always delighted to converse with our fellow lovers of English!

Other articles to look forward to in this newsletter include greetings from both of our Student Advisors, a short essay

on Melville's "Bartleby," and the always wise words from our Regent, Dr. Sarah Dangelantonio. May they inspire and keep you good company over the upcoming summer months.

As we all contemplate our futures, whether in the "real world" or another school year, I leave you with the judicious words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, himself an "Eastern Region" native of sorts: "The purpose of life...is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."

Happy summer readings!

Saying Goodbye to the 2007-2008 SR

Ashlee Hazeltine, 07-08 Eastern SR



Ashlee Hazeltine and Donald Dilliplane, 07-08 Student Representative and Assistant Student Representative

It seems like it was only yesterday that I started as the Eastern Student Representative (SR) and embarked on a year of growth and experience, rather than it all starting a year ago. It's strange to think that this will be my last article for the Eastern Region as any sort of a representative, and it's really bittersweet. As I said in our regional caucus, and will say again, I cannot thank anyone enough for giving me the chance to be the Eastern SR. As Katie will soon find out, it's hard work but completely worth every second of it. The friends that I have made through Sigma Tau Delta are ones I know that I will be keeping for life, and let's all face it, "for life" is a long period of time, and I'm grateful for that.

I know this might sound slightly like an Oscar acceptance speech, but there really is a bunch of people that I want to thank for helping me along this past year. I don't want to take up all the space it would take to mention everyone, but thank you to our Regent Sarah, our fantastic Associate Student

Representative (ASR) Donald, the Student Advisors Lynzie and Micah, the five other Student Representatives Brittni, Adam, Kelly, Patricia and Nellene, the Louisville Convention Chair Shannin, and the rest of the Sigma Tau Delta board. If it wasn't for all of these people, I wouldn't have learned half as much as I did this past year, and I thank you all for that. The best thing about Sigma Tau Delta is that we all come together to make friends in a week that we end up keeping for a lifetime and I cannot think of any other organization quite like ours. But I pass on my torch (or flag, however you would like to view it) to Katie and my good friend Brittany. Katie is from Keene State College, as I'm sure she will tell you all about, and is completely qualified for the job of Student Representative. Brittany is from Westfield State College, like myself and our previous SR, and I'm happy to see a friend of mine to continue to represent our

ever growing region. As Keith Leonard (E-SR 2006-2007) said when he left and I will repeat: Use Katie and Brittany! I know it might sound a little strange, but if there is anything that you need, any questions you may have, or just want to talk, e-mail them. They are the voices of our region and want to represent you to the rest of Sigma Tau Delta to the best of their abilities, but they can't do that without your help!

As for me, if you ever want to catch up and just chat away, you can reach me at arhazeltine@hotmail.co.

Thanks so much for a wonderful year, and as I'm graduating this year, I'll be sending in my registration for Sigma's Alumni chapter – so maybe I'll see you all at next year's convention!

Happy reading and writing,
Ashlee.

Meet the New 08-09 ASR Brittany Blake, Eastern ASR

First of all let me say that I appreciated the lack of rotting fruits and veggies during the Louisville Convention. My name is Brit Blake. I am from Westfield State College, in Massachusetts and yes, I am deathly afraid of public speaking. Many people ask me, if you're afraid of public speaking, why are you going to be a teacher? Well to be an English teacher means that I will have had at least four years of training for the job; my students (hopefully) will not have had the same training and might glean a bit of knowledge from what I teach them. Needless to say, I was quite nervous when I gave my speech, even though a special someone gave me the advice to not say the word

"exude" too often. (Thanks Ashlee!)

But here I am. I gave my speech and you all elected me!

Here in this newsletter right now I want to renew my pledge to you: "I want to be involved and informed and I want to involve you and inform you." So please join the Facebook group, or drop me an email. Tell me whatever it is you think I need to know, because the more I know the more helpful I can be.

And through this communication who knows what might happen?

How wonderful would it be, if next year in Minneapolis, instead of going there for the weekend ready to make new friends, we were

to greet old ones?

A couple people told me after my speech that they were touched by what I said about loving the people I get to work with in my chapter. Being a commuting student at a residential college is not the best way to meet people. For the first year I was feeling out of the loop. Last Spring changed everything. It was then that I received my letter

and here I am just one year later, having friends I'll hold in my heart forever, meeting people from all over America, and jumping on hotel beds I never thought to see. You're next Downtown Hyatt at Minneapolis. I can't wait to see you all there!

Wanted: Literary Journal Submissions!

Submissions for our yet to be named literary journal! We're looking for creative and scholarly pieces, poetry, memoirs...you name it! All submissions must be in by September 30th, 2008 and need to have students' contact information (both snail mail and e-mail). Submissions should be no longer than 1000 words, double spaced, and sent to: easternlitjournal@gmail.com We'll keep you updated on the details as they become available.

~Katie and Brit, Eastern SR and ASR~

A Fresh Face for Sigma Tau Delta: The New Logo

Sigma Tau Delta is delighted to announce the impending adoption of a redesigned logo and our first official wordmark, shown to the right. Both will be debuted on the Society's newly designed

website, set to launch in July of 2008. In honor of these developments, we invite you to contemplate the meaning of each of our three symbols: star, torch and pen. Following is a list of tagwords to get the

creative juices flowing:

Star: Light. Direction.

Pathway. Design.

Torch: Fire. Passion.

Inspiration. Truth.

Pen: Catalyst. Art.

Message. Sincerity.



**SIGMA
TAU
DELTA**

INTERNATIONAL
ENGLISH
HONOR SOCIETY

The Truth Behind "Bartleby" Danielle Rice, Alpha Eta Sigma, Westfield State College

One of the common short stories read in college these days seems to be Melville's "Bartleby". I found myself rereading this story shortly after taking an Intro to Psychology class and suddenly found new meanings to the strange behavior shown by Bartleby. I would like to outline for the reader why I believe that I can offer a solid argument as to why Bartleby seemingly without reason begins to stop caring about anything: he becomes depressed due to the carelessness of his employer.

My first piece of evidence is the fact that when he first joins the office the lawyer purposefully separates him from all human and natural contact. He is placed in a corner of the lawyer's office, away from his co-workers, hidden behind a screen, facing a wall that "commanded at present no view at

all." Being hidden away in this manner would upset any human being, and his further treatment does not help his mental state. Secondly, the lawyer writes that Bartleby works night and day, and completes his copying perfectly, but that even with this behavior he is not well liked. In other words Bartleby's almost perfect performance does not earn him rewards or favor with his boss, which would definitely upset an employee in today's society when acceptance is so desired. To top that off the lawyer then reprimands Bartleby in front of his co-workers, and even has them add in their thoughts on whether or not Bartleby should be fired. Very unprofessional and damaging to Bartleby's sense of self worth and usefulness.

I believe it is these careless actions taken

by the lawyer that lead Bartleby to fall into a deep depression in which he "prefers not to" do anything asked of him by his employer. When the lawyer forces him out of the office - where his mental break first exploded - Bartleby is given the final blow of rejection that he can not handle and therefore sees no reason to continue with his life. Ergo it is due to the lawyer's carelessness and callousness that Bartleby falls into a depression, prefers not to do anything, and ultimately dies.

The moral of this article? Compliments are key to a happy and successful life. By the way, you have pretty eyes.



Members of the Alpha Eta Sigma Chapter (Westfield State College, MA) at the Louisville Convention

Wanted: Artwork for the Eastern Literary Journal!

Art work for the cover of the Eastie's new literary journal! (As yet to be named.) We're hoping for something tasteful, done in black and white because right now we're still hashing out many of the details. Please send submissions to: easternlitjournal@gmail.com no later than August 31st, 2008. All submissions must include name and contact information of the student artist and be no larger than 7 by 5 inches. Photographs are acceptable if in black and white. We'll keep you updated on the details as they become available.

~Katie and Brit, Eastern SR and ASR~

Fast Facts: English in 1983 Brittany Blake, Eastern ASR

Twenty five years ago, amazing things were happening with literature that still resonate for readers today.

Some of the most interesting facts related to English (and its subsidiary fields) are listed below:

Published in 1983:

*The Mists of Avalon-

Marion Zimmer Bradley

*The Color Purple- Alice

Walker (Pulitzer Fiction

Winner)

*Galway Kinnell, Selected

Poems (Pulitzer Poetry

Winner)

*Pet Cemetery- Stephen

King

*Hollywood Wives- Jackie

Collins

*The Zanzibar Cat- Joanna

Russ

*Phantoms- Dean Koontz

*The Lonesome Gods-

Louis L'Amour

The End of an Era:

American playwright

Tennessee Williams (real name Thomas Lanier

Williams III) died during this year at the age of 71. He

was famous for such plays

as: *The Glass Menagerie*,

Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, and

A Streetcar Named

Desire. His works still

influence our culture today,

even going so far as to

inspire an episode of the

HBO hit, *The Sopranos*.

Unfortunately the writer

had a very troubled life,

dealing with his sisters'

madness and his own

alcoholism and other

addictions which may have

led to his death. Sometime

this Spring a new collection

of previously unpublished

Williams' plays will be in

print under the title *The*

Traveling Companion and

Other Plays, edited by

Williams' scholar Annette

Saddik.

The musical *Annie* was

performed for the last time

on Broadway after 2,377

shows. Many famous

names have been

associated with the play

including Sarah Jessica

Parker, Allison Smith, and

Molly Ringwald. The

musical has been

performed in over

seventeen countries in its

30+ years.

Noble Prize for Literature:

William Golding won the

Noble Prize for Literature

for his many works, the

most famous of which is

taught in high schools all

over the world--*Lord of*

the Flies. (If you aren't

familiar with it, it is about the savagery of human nature, and what happens to a group of British school aged boys when their plane crashes on a desert island.) Golding published 11 other novels, and another was published posthumously. Besides his novels, Golding wrote poetry, essays and articles, some of which pertained to the Loch Ness Monster. He remains a very influential force in the literary world and beyond, inspiring other writers like Stephen King, and even musical groups such as U2 and Iron Maiden. Golding passed away in 1993 at age 81.

Clearly 1983 was an important year for all things English. It's interesting to wonder what people will be thinking about our literature twenty-five years from now, and hopefully our literature and authors will be as influential as those from 1983.



Brittany Blake, 08-09
Associate Student
Representative

Greetings from our Senior Student Advisor

Micah Dean Hicks, Senior SA

Greetings, East!

It seems like we haven't yet been properly introduced. I currently live in Magnolia, Arkansas and am a Senior at Southern Arkansas University, majoring in English. I live in a duplex off-campus and have painted poetry onto the walls of my room. Right now, I work in the Writing Center at my school and pick up the occasional bread writing, but one day I hope to make a living exclusively from my fiction.

As I'm the Senior Student Advisor, I'm really excited about this next year with Sigma Tau Delta. I haven't had much time to talk to my new SR's and ASR's, but I can already tell that they are going to be a great group to

work with. My goals for this coming year are—not surprisingly—to get ready for the convention in Minneapolis. Aside from that, we're working on some very interesting things right now. Since one of the big things at this Spring's board meeting was the issue of branding and a possible logo change for our organization, I'm asking every region to include in its Newsletter at least one article devoted to interpreting or commenting on our three symbols: star, torch, and pen. There has also been a lot of talk concerning regional journals and other publications, so I would like to create an online resource of some kind to offer tips in the creation and management of these. Now, for the first time ever,

our group of student leaders is working with the new Alumni Representative, Dan Hardy, and we're hoping that some Alumni projects can come out of that. Also, this year Stephanie Schiefelbein—the Junior SA—will be organizing the book drive for Minneapolis. All in all, it's looking like an ambitious year!

My personal goals for the next year are no less lofty. Last December, I applied to six of the top MFA programs in fiction writing. This time around, I was not accepted, but I'm not giving up. The competition is very fierce, most of the time hundreds of applicants for as few as four fiction spots. I'm going to spend the summer working on a stronger portfolio to try again for the same programs and others, and at the same time I'll be trying to complete my first novel. As far



**Micah Hicks,
Senior Student
Advisor**

as summer jobs go, right now I'm considering working with a traveling carnival (research for a short story collection), but I don't know if that idea is going to go anywhere or not.

It looks like it's shaping up to be a very busy, but very fun, next year with Sigma Tau Delta. I can't wait to see you all in Minneapolis!

Meet Our New Student Advisor

Stephanie Schiefelbein, Junior SA



**Stephanie
Schiefelbein,
Junior Student
Advisor**

My name is Stephanie Schiefelbein and I am the new Student Advisor (SA) from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. I am a junior at UWEC, studying English literature and music. Micah Hicks is my partner in crime, the senior Student Advisor. As Student Advisors, it is our job to represent the student members of $\Sigma\tau\Delta$ on the national Board of Directors. With more than 8,000 students inducted into Sigma Tau Delta annually it's a lot of students to represent, so we do this with the help of the Regional Student Representatives and Associate Representatives who do their best to represent the students in their region. But in order for these regional representatives to better represent you, I encourage all of you to get more involved at the regional or even the national level. This upcoming year I challenge all of you to

participate in a regional or national convention. Last March, the International Convention took place in Louisville, Kentucky. It was my first time attending a National Convention and it definitely a worthwhile experience. I met students from all across the United States, heard outstanding fiction and scholarly essays, and had the experience reading my own paper at a session. There was a leadership workshop, guest authors, a bad poetry contest and a closing banquet. Attending the convention made me realize all the opportunities available for students in $\Sigma\tau\Delta$ and it made getting involved at the national level a less daunting experience. All members of Sigma Tau Delta are welcome to submit their creative works and essays to be read at the convention. Entire chapters can also submit panel proposals.

Accepted works are eligible for several cash awards that are announced at the closing banquet. Scholarships, for which all members are able to apply, are also announced at the convention. Minneapolis, Minnesota is the destination for the International Convention in March of 2009. Born and raised in Minnesota, I promise you that it will be a worthwhile experience. Once again, I encourage all of you to submit your essays, panel proposals and creative works to the convention, apply for our abundance of scholarships and other opportunities, attend the International Convention in March 2009 and get more involved! Thanks!

Regent Greetings Sarah Dangelantonio, Eastern Regent

T.S. Eliot hit the nail on the head when he wrote "April is the cruellest month" as the opening lines of *The Wasteland*.

Early this fine April I was driving in to campus and coming by Pearly Pond (a small lake by most standards); the ice was still on the lake and there, lying on the ice, was a baseball – probably a foul pop up at the plate that managed to sail across the road and land on the ice. It struck me as the perfect juxtaposition of seasons here in the more northern reaches of the Eastern Region. It was a necessary contradiction – at least for those of us living in Rindge,

New Hampshire. Speaking of necessary contradictions, this year's convention was another roaring success. Those who attended found themselves charmed by Naomi Shihab Nye reading from her new work *Honeybee* about visiting an art museum that turned out to be someone's home and challenged by Suzan-Lori Parks reading from *The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole World* – and tickled by her description of meeting James Baldwin. The 13 inches of snow were a surprise, but the camaraderie and engagement

were truly uplifting, and if you weren't able to attend, well, we missed you.

As you wrap up this semester and look forward to next year's activities, I urge you to consider coming to the convention in Minneapolis. If you haven't yet been to one, you really must get there. Imagine 700+ people who all love literature and language as much as you do. Imagine being in a panel discussion with 20-30 people who have all read carefully and thought deeply about Marie de Frances' *Lais*. Does it get any better?!! See you there.



Dr. Dangelantonio and Members of the Iota Omega Chapter (Franklin Pierce University, NH) at the Louisville Convention



Eastern Region Officers

Student Representative

Katherine St. Martin
Keene State College
Keene, NH
kstmartin@ksc.mailcruiser.com

Associate Student Representative

Brittany Blake
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teapot902@gmail.com

Eastern Regent

Sarah Dangelantonio
Franklin Pierce University
Rindge, NH
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Website!

www.english.org

2008 Louisville Convention Eastern Region Award Winners

E.Nelson James Junior Scholarship

Alison Veneziano, Runner-Up (\$1500)
Penn State Altoona (Alpha Iota Theta)

Elva Bell McLin Senior Scholarship

Paula Tremain, Runner-Up (\$1500)
Centenary College of New Jersey (Alpha Kappa Alpha)

ETA Study Abroad Scholarship

Kathleen Hynes (\$3000)
The College of New Jersey (Alpha Epsilon Alpha)

Regent's Scholarships - Eastern

Kevin Kelley (\$1000)
The College of New Jersey (Alpha Epsilon Alpha)

Scholarship Application Essay Award

Katherine St. Martin (\$100)
Keene State College (Upsilon Phi)

Elizabeth Holtze Creative Nonfiction Award (Rectangle Award)

Jacqueline Bosworth (\$300)
College of Notre Dame of Maryland (Alpha Alpha)

Frederic Fadner Critical Essay Award (Rectangle Award)

Samantha Ricci (\$300)
Allegheny College (Alpha Mu Epsilon)

Herbert L. Hughes Short Story Award (Rectangle Award)

Alyssa Kopanyi (\$300)
Susquehanna University (Theta Chi)

Judson Q. Owen Award for Best Piece Overall (Rectangle Award)

Jacqueline Bosworth (\$200)
College of Notre Dame of Maryland (Alpha Alpha)

Outstanding Eastern Chapter Sponsor

Marybeth DeMeo, Chapter Sponsor (Plaque)
Alvernia College (Kappa Pi)

Outstanding Chapter Award

Alpha Epsilon Alpha (\$350)
The College of New Jersey

Chapter Website Award

Alpha Epsilon Alpha (\$250)
The College of New Jersey

Project Grants

Delta Theta (\$300)
California University of Pennsylvania