



Sigma Tau Delta SOUTHWESTERN

Fall 2005

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An EXCITING Regional Event! *Submitted by Donna Gregory*

On Thursday, November 3, the Omega Phi chapter of Sigma Tau Delta at Oklahoma City University is hosting "An Evening with Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz," a special Southwestern regional event for all members of Sigma Tau Delta and Sigma Kappa Delta.

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz is a historian and teaches at California State University (Hayward). She has authored numerous books and is best known for her memoirs *Red Dirt: Growing Up Okie* and *Outlaw Woman: A Memoir of the War Years, 1960-1975*. Her third memoir, *Blood on the Border: A Memoir of the Contra War*, will be out in October 2005.

All three of Dr. Dunbar-Ortiz's memoirs have met with critical acclaim. Of *Red Dirt: Growing Up Okie*, the *Los Angeles Times* writes "Dunbar-Ortiz's most important achievement is to put class back on the rural map where it belongs." *Outlaw Woman* brings this comment from Noam Chomsky: "This is a wonderfully evocative account of a remarkable life: harrowing and joyful, searching and achieving, a life that brings together threads of a complex, troubled, and rewarding era, a life that really made a difference to moving towards a more humane and just world."

And Joy Harjo writes this about *Blood on the Border*: "Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz speaks on behalf of justice. It's never simple. And there is no clean, perfect ending. What is sure here is the brilliant, fearless storytelling by Ortiz of the devastation wreaked by a ruthless corrupt power. What is sure is the ongoing drama of the story; it entangles all of us." This is just a sampling of the support behind Dr. Dunbar-Ortiz's work. More information can be found at <http://www.reddirtsite.com/>.

We hope you will join us as Dr. Dunbar-Ortiz reads from her three memoirs, gives tips on memoir writing, and visits with STD and SKD members in a special book signing following her discussion. Event details are as follows:

November 3, 2005
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Kerr-McGee Auditorium
Oklahoma City University
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

For a campus map, please visit <http://www.okcu.edu/map/map.asp>. Kerr-McGee Auditorium is inside Meinders School of Business, which is building #39 on the map.

For specific directions or for additional information, please contact Donna Gregory at sigmataudelta@okcu.edu.



REGENT'S COLUMN

By Dr. Sidney Watson

What does it cost to make a dream come true?

Of course, there's no simple answer to that question, but this month I can tell you of some ways that the regional and national Sigma Tau Delta offices can help to make your dreams come true, whether those dreams belong to you as an individual or to your chapter.

Regional Opportunities

At the regional level we're offering two new opportunities, one for chapters and one for individuals. The first is a response, in part, to the rising cost of gas and travel in general. We hope this year to encourage activities that bring chapters together that are located within a relatively small distance. To that end we're offering five \$150 Regional Activities Grants, which will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The activities covered by the Regional Activities Grants can be varied: hosting speakers, poetry slams, or any of an infinite variety of other events that would interest Sigma Tau Delta members from schools in your area. The application process is simple. Just send me a one-page description of the activity you hope to host, including the date(s) of the activity, the reasons you believe this event would appeal to other chapters in your area, and an explanation of how you plan to spend the grant.

In that letter you should also agree to several conditions: to publicize the event by sending flyers or emails to the chapters within a 50-mile radius of your campus, to allow your regional officers to advertise the event through the newsletter and the national website, and finally, after the event, to submit (within one month of the date of the event) an article about the event to the regional newsletter, including the identities of other chapters which took part in the event. The letter should be signed by the chapter officer who will have primary responsibility for the event and by your chapter's sponsor.

Send the application to Dr. Sidney Watson, OBU Box 61238, 500 W. University, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, OK 74804.

The second opportunity offers members who are not able to attend the convention a chance to experience some of that good ole convention excitement. This year's Common Reader for the convention is Mark Salzman's *True Notebooks*. Hopefully, many of our chapters will provide opportunities to discuss the book before the convention. Also, the convention awards include one for the best essay on the common reader.

But what of those members who can't attend the convention? (We wish you all could!) For those members, the Regents are offering the Common Reader Regional Writing Contests, which will offer a \$100 award in each region for the best essay on the common reader by a member who cannot attend the national convention. You can access the application information from the homepage at the Sigma Tau Delta website (www.english.org). Look for the big red button with the jail bars.

National Opportunities

You may already be familiar with two perennial opportunities at the national level—Project Grants and the Outstanding Chapter Awards. You can locate all the information about these from the website at www.english.org (a web address that I hope you've all bookmarked on your browsers), so here I just want to point out that the deadlines for these two opportunities are now October 30th, a month later than in the past. If you thought you'd missed your chance, there's still time to apply!

While you're at the website, take a look, too, at the many scholarships offered by Sigma Tau Delta. Their deadline is also October 30th. The application process is relatively simple for these scholarships, but you do need to begin that process soon, since some of the applications require your chapter's approval.

Finally, please don't let these opportunities pass you by. Don't think that your chapter or your school is too small, or that you won't meet some standard that you imagine these winners have achieved. Winners come from all sorts of schools and all sizes of chapters. These awards and scholarships are so varied that you are sure to find one that can help you to *achieve your dreams*.



First Annual McBride Lecture for Faith and Literature

Taken from an email by Scott LaMascus
Oklahoma Christian University
Rho Mu Chapter

Best-selling author Kathleen Norris will give a free, public lecture titled, "Faith and Literature: The Grace and Challenge of Incarnational Language."

Ms. Norris's lecture will inaugurate the first annual McBride Lecture, October 3, 2005, at 6 p.m. in The Garvey Center on the campus of Oklahoma Christian University. A book signing will follow. Book sales that evening will be provided by Best of Books. At 7:45, Mike and Nancy O'Neal will host in their home a Benefit Reception for the McBride Center for Faith and Literature.

Norris is the author of many volumes of poetry and memoir, including *Dakota: a Spiritual Geography* (2001). The *New York Times Book Review* writes of *Dakota*: "Dakota is an act of devotion with nothing cloistered about it, and an endlessly instructive book." She also is author of *The Virgin of Bennington*, *The Cloister Walk*, and *Amazing Grace*. Her first volume of poetry was published in 1971.

The McBride Lecture is the first initiative of the McBride Center, established in 2004 to honor long-time academic dean and English professor Dr. Bailey B. McBride and his wife, Joyce, for their many years of dedication to Oklahoma Christian students, alumni, faculty, and friends. The OC community established an endowment to fund the initiatives of the McBride Center and announced the honors at Homecoming 2004.

For additional information or to RSVP for Benefit Reception tickets, please call Frances Sawyer at (405) 425-5330.

We would be delighted to host you, your guests, students, or others for this important Oklahoma appearance of Kathleen Norris, a champion of faith and literature.

Upcoming **DEADLINES**

Chapter Awards

[Critical Journal Award](#) (due October 30)

[Outstanding Chapter Award](#) (due October 30)

[Outstanding Literary Arts Journal Award](#) (due October 30)

[Chapter Web Site Award](#) (due November 30)

[Service Awards](#) (due May 30)

Individual Awards

[Delta Awards](#) (due October 30)

[Elaine W. Hughes Outstanding Sponsor Awards](#) (due November 30)

[P.C. Somerville Awards for Future Teachers](#) (due October 30)

[Scholarly Paper Awards](#) (due October 30)

[Personal Web Site Awards](#) (due November 30)

CALL FOR PAPERS

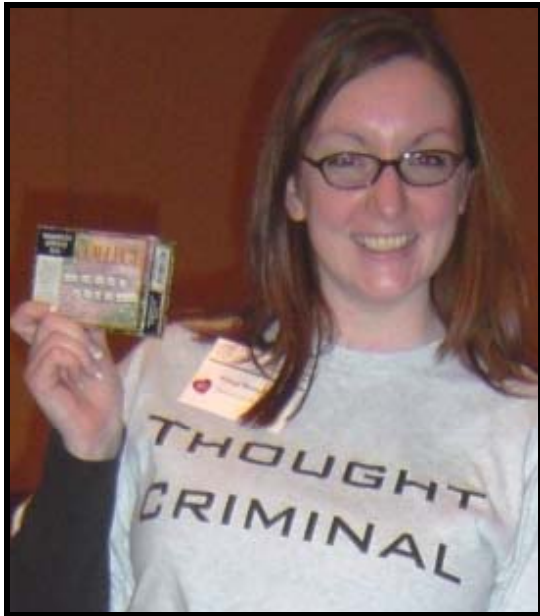
- Critical Essay
- Creative Nonfiction
- Poetry
- Fiction
- Drama/Screenplay
- Common Reader

Sigma Tau Delta International Convention in **Portland, Oregon**
<http://english.org/portland/convention.shtml> **DEADLINE: NOV 25th**



Apply for Student Leadership Positions!

By Kassy Nicholson
Southwest Student Representative



Kassy Nicholson, your Southwestern SR

Think you might want my job (SR)? Or Elaine's (ASR)? Or do you aspire to even greater heights of Sigma Tau Delta student leadership (SA)? Well, according to our national website (<http://english.org/students.shtml>), "active student members have the opportunity to rise above chapter leadership positions and serve the Society on an international level. Those members who do so gain valuable networking, organizational, and leadership skills that benefit their personal and professional lives." *Now* are you interested?

If so, the process is relatively simple. Again, the website tells us, "All Student Representative and Associate Student Representative positions will be open for election/re-election, and one new Student Advisor will be appointed, at the 2006 annual convention." Job descriptions and applications are available online.

Just in case anyone was wondering, although SRs are eligible to serve two terms, I will not be running again. I enjoy this job greatly, but I will be graduating next December, and so I must bid you a fond farewell in March.

QUOTABLE QUOTES: Kassy's Pick

I fell in love—that is the only expression I can think of—at once, and am still at the mercy of words, though sometimes now, knowing a little of their behavior very well, I think I can influence them slightly and have learned to beat them now and then, which they appear to enjoy.

-Dylan Thomas

Sigma Tau Delta International Convention March 30–April 2, 2006 Portland, Oregon

GREEN

Of the colors, blue and green have the greatest emotional range. Sad reds and melancholy yellows are difficult to turn up. Among the ancient elements, blue occurs everywhere: in ice and water, in the flame as purely as in the flower, overhead and inside caves, covering fruit and oozing out of clay. Although green enlivens the earth and mixes in the ocean, and we find it, copperish, in fire; green air, green skies, are rare.

From William Gass, *On Being Blue*



Submit to the Southwestern Region Newsletter!

Please share with your region the goings-on of your chapter. This is your forum! You don't want to read my prattling for a whole newsletter more, do you? Send me those articles! Please try to limit them to 500 words or less, and it would be nice if you could get them to me at WillWrite4Food2@aol.com by December 30, 2005.

TEEN READ WEEK

October 16–23, 2005

By Elaine Almquist

It's time to connect with teens! The American Library Association's Teen Read Week program <http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading/teenreading.htm> is just around the corner. This is our chance to help remind teens that reading is **FUN!** Not only that, books come in all shapes and sizes—just like people—so there's something out there for everyone. Check with your public library or local middle and high schools to see how your chapter can participate. Here are a few **FUN** ideas you could propose:

- **Book Basket Raffle:** Choose a variation of books from the Teens' Top Ten List. But instead of paying for raffle tickets, have the teens fess up to the name of the book they had the most **FUN** reading.
- **Dewey Decimal Scavenger Hunt:** Let teens get reacquainted with the layout of the library. Choose books from all categories, have the teens scout out the books, and reward them with a **FUN** prize at the finish line.
- **Jump on the Bandwagon:** Find out what activities your library has already scheduled to rekindle teens' passion for books. Pick an event that sounds **FUN** to you, then make it **FUN** for the kids.

Kids—especially teens—are malleable. Our sculpting tools are books. And what's more, you never know when you might be the person to hand someone the book that will change his or her life (or even better, inspire a new English major)!



Elaine Almquist, your ASR

Quotable Quotes: Elaine's Pick

humanity i love you
because you are
perpetually putting the
secret of life in your
pants and forgetting its
there and sitting down

ee cummings

