



sigma tau delta
The International English Honor Society

Southwestern Region

Spring 2003



The Southwestern Quarterly



Greetings From The New Southwestern Representative



There is a new Southwestern Rep. in town, and I'm it. My name is Cathy Jamison-Hume, and I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to serve Sigma Tau Delta students in our region. It's going to be a fun year, and I hope that all of you will work with me towards increasing our membership and

enhancing your experience with the organization.

Some of you I may have met at the 2002 Regional Conference at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, TX, or the recent national convention in Cincinnati. For others, I am a new face. Let me tell you a little about me. I am currently a senior at the University of Central Oklahoma majoring in English Education. I have been a member of Sigma Tau Delta for two years and currently hold the position of vice president of our chapter. Next year I shall serve as president for our chapter. In addition to my Sigma Tau Delta position, I have presided as chapter president of Student Oklahoma Education Association (SOEA) for two years, been secretary at the state level for SOEA, and held the secretary position for Kappa Delta Pi (Education Honor Society). I am also a member of the academic honor society, Alpha Chi.

Lest anyone think I have too many irons in the fire, let me reassure you that for the coming year I have elected to make Sigma Tau Delta my main interest. Although I will continue to be a member of the other organizations, I will hold no leadership office with them. Sigma Tau Delta will be my chief focus, and I hope to serve the needs of all students in our region in whatever capacity is needed.

I am always available to answer your questions or address your concerns, as is our Regent, Dr. Sandra Mayfield and Associate Rep. Donna Gregory. Our job is to make sure your experience with Sigma Tau Delta is everything you want it to be.

Sincerely,
Cathy L. Jamison-Hume
Southwestern Student Representative

Passing the Torch

My adventure as a Student Representative has been quite a ride. I grossly underestimated the amount of fun and work this task involved. It is a shame that everyone in our organization has not experienced all the goings-on from the back of the stage. Unfortunately, I must move forward due to eligibility and my own academic plans. I want to thank all of the chapters who helped me in the process of doing this job by offering information and support along the way. This was definitely a learning process. I wish only the best for Cathy Jamison-Hume, and I extend those same good wishes to all the region's chapters and the region itself. —Matthew Leal

"When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world."

- George Washington Carver

Our New Associate Representative



Howdy, y'all! Donna Gregory here, your new Associate Student Representative. I hope everyone made it home okay from Cincinnati. For those of you who didn't go to the international convention, you missed a lot of fun, a lot of fellowship, and a lot of wonderful writing! I came back from Cincy feeling

strengthened as a student, as a writer, and as a Sigma Tau Deltan. It was truly one of the best experiences in my life.

For those who don't know me, here's the skinny: I'm in the first semester of my eight semester senior year at Oklahoma City University, where I'm double-majoring in English and philosophy. I'm a two-year member of OCU's Omega Phi chapter. I'm a part-time, "non-traditional" student; I'm also the Annoying Older Student (a/k/a, the "AOS") who always has her homework done and assignments read. (You know the type – I'm sure everyone has had an AOS in class!) This year, I'd like to engage our region in *Operation STD-Day*. Our objective: taking Daytona Beach by storm. **Every** member of STD should be able to say they've gone to an international meeting.

This year was OCU's first international convention, and it won't be our last. One of the things I'm going to be organizing with my local chapter is fundraising. I'm very excited about working with Cathy, and I'd like to help her develop a way for every interested and active Sigma Tau Deltan in our region to attend next year's convention. This means we're all going to have to communicate and share those great fundraising ideas!

If you have any questions, ideas, or if you just want to say "hi," please feel free to e-mail me. I'm looking forward to working with and getting to know all of you!

Donna Gregory
Associate Student Representative

Regent's Corner



The Convention in Cincinnati was spectacular! Guest speakers-writers inspired us with their interpretations of "Ourselves Reflected." By reading from their own great works, they reminded us of the centrality of literature in the pursuit of the Self.

It was heartening to see so many representatives of the Southwestern Region in attendance at the Convention, presenting papers and receiving awards. Special congratulations go to Elissa Jones of Oklahoma Baptist University for receiving the P.C. Somerville Award for Future Teachers and to Brent Newsom of the same school for receiving Honorable Mention for the Outstanding Convention Paper.

Congratulations to the University of North Texas for winning second place in the Web Page Award and to Kassy Nicholson from Oklahoma City University for winning the Bad Poetry Contest.

Please join me in welcoming Cathy Jamison-Hume of the University of Central Oklahoma as the newly elected Student Representative for our region. We welcome also Donna Gregory of Oklahoma City University as the Assistant Student Representative. Ms. Gregory and Ms. Jamison-Hume presented several papers at the Convention, and they are quite dedicated to Sigma Tau Delta. Both of these students are energetic, enthusiastic, and delightful to know. I hope that you get to know them well.

Kudos to Laura Pogue of Hardin-Simmons University for helping to renew the chapter there!

May I issue to students and sponsors alike a special invitation to contact me regarding concerns or accomplishments in your chapter. Best wishes for a meaningful Spring Semester!

Dr. Sandra Mayfield
Southwestern Regent

Fun Time at Cincinnati Convention 03'

What a wonderful time everyone had at the 2003 Sigma Tau Delta International Convention in Cincinnati, OH. There were many students from the Southwestern region who presented papers, and several of our region's members walked away with awards and scholarships. The winner of the Bad poetry was also from our region.

Convention attendees were honored to hear speakers such as Keynote Address speaker Robert Hass, a U.S. Poet Laureate from 1995 to 1997, Memoirist Kyoko Mori, and prose writer Bernard Cooper. All three speakers stayed long after their speeches ended to sign copies of their books.

There were several awards and scholarships handed out to students in our region. Congratulations go to Elissa Jones of **Oklahoma Baptist University** for receiving the P.C. Somerville Award for Future Teachers and to Brent Newsom of the same school for receiving Honorable Mention for the Outstanding Convention Paper. Another Oklahoman, Donna Gregory from **Oklahoma City University**, proved her talent by winning second place in *Critical Essay*. The Southwest region also had another winner at the convention; Kassy Nicholson from **Oklahoma City University** won the Bad Poetry contest on the second night of the convention. Her performance of a Gothic style poem, written when she was 16, left the audience in tears from laughing so hard.

The 2003 Sigma Tau Delta convention was a resounding success. There were friendships made and ideas exchanged between students and sponsors. And on the last evening of the convention, there was excitement in the air about attending next year's convention in Daytona Beach, Florida. Let us work hard during the coming year to help insure that other STD members having the thrill of a Sigma Tau Delta convention.

Famous Authors born in April, May, and June

Washington Irving April 2, 1783
Author of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Rip Van Winkle*, and many others

John Christopher April 16, 1922
Author of *The Year of the Comet*

William Shakespeare April 23, 1564
Many sonnets and plays

Randall Jarrell May 6, 1915
Poet: *Blood for a Stranger*

Norma Klein May 13, 1958
Children's author: *Just Friends*, *The World As It Is*, and *Confessions of an Only Child*

Thomas Hardy June 2, 1840
Author of *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*

Harriet Beecher Stowe June 14, 1811
Author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

Regional Conference

Attending a regional conference is a wonderful way to gain experience in presenting papers and an exciting event just to experience. Hosting a regional conference is a fantastic way to spotlight your university and chapter. The 2002 Southwestern Regional Conference was held at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas, last year, and they did a marvelous job. If we are to have a fall conference this year we need another chapter to step up and grab hold of the reins so we can once again have a regional conference.

Is your chapter/school interested in hosting a regional conference? Do you need more information on what is involved in hosting a conference? Contact the Southwestern regent, Dr. Sandra Mayfield for information. She will be happy to talk with you about hosting a fall conference.

Chapter News

The **Omega Chi** chapter at the **University of Arkansas Monticello** held its annual book sale. It raised enough money to buy the UAM English Department a new DVD player and accompanying attachments to make it workable on all campus TV's. Last year the chapter purchased a set of famous poets reading on audiotape for the department. - Dr. Robert Moore, Faculty Sponsor, UAM chapter

The **Alpha Theta Psi** chapter from the **University of Oklahoma** has been busy. They sponsored a book donation drive for an Oklahoma correctional facility near Norman, Oklahoma. Within a few days, hundreds of books had been dropped off thanks to a mass emailing to faculty, staff, students at OU, and a local church. - Grettie Bondy, Staff Sponsor of Alpha Theta Psi, University Oklahoma

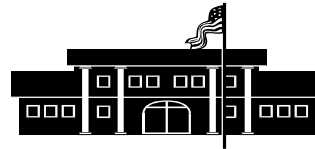
The **Omega Epsilon** chapter at **Southwest Texas State University** celebrated its 50th anniversary with a Homecoming reception for alumni and current members. They hosted a pizza party this spring for visiting English students from Slovenia. They learned from their sponsors that books are difficult to buy and very expensive in Slovenia, so the chapter invited them to take any of the used books they would like from those we had collected for our spring book sale. They selected book bags full, and we were reminded how much we take for granted the availability of books.

The **Nu Zeta** chapter of **Texas Wesleyan University** threw a smashing Christmas bash. Everyone that attended brought a book to exchange as a Christmas gift. The chapter is also hard at work collecting book donations for a book sale that they are having on campus as a fundraiser. As an added bonus, they have teamed up the Texas Wesleyan University Department of Art, who will also be selling student prints during the sale. - Nathan Roberts, President of Nu Zeta Chapter

Chapter News (Continued)

The **Chi Gamma** chapter from the **University of Central Oklahoma** held its first annual Faculty Spelling Bee this year to attract new members. English faculty tested their spelling skills on words taken from the National Spelling Bee website. Dr. Stephen Garrison, one of Chi Gamma's sponsors, was the winner and received a prize of dinner for two at a new local Italian restaurant. - Dr. Sandra Mayfield and Dr. Stephen Garrison, faculty sponsors for Chi Gamma Chapter.

This spring, the **Omega Phi** chapter at **Oklahoma City University** attended a lecture by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., joined other campus organizations in sponsoring a book drive benefiting a low-income housing community, hosted a public reading of its anthology *The Scarab*, and attended a poetry workshop taught by Naomi Shihab Nye. - Matt Randall, Treasurer of Omega Phi Chapter



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Future Goals for Southwestern Region

Setting goals is a great way of keeping ourselves motivated. Our goals should not be so lofty that there is no hope in accomplishing them, but they should not be so low that there is little effort put towards attaining them. What are the goals for your chapter next year? Let me know so I can share them with other chapters who might have ideas to help you achieve your objectives.

A few goals for the Southwestern region are:

1. Increase membership in each chapter.
2. Share the experience of a convention with as many of our region's Sigma Tau Delta members as possible
3. Get the word out about scholarships and publication opportunities that are available
4. Connect neighboring chapters with each other to share information, ideas, and projects.
5. Increase the number of SW region members who attend the 2004 convention, and encourage submissions for presentations.

Lets work together to build friendships, increase awareness and opportunities, and help the region and chapters reach their goals.



Quotes to Remember

"The artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without work." - Emile Zola

"Thunder is good, thunder is impressive; but it is lightning that does the work". -Mark Twain

"Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it" – Henry David Thoreau

"To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance" – Oscar Wilde

Regent and Representative Contact Information

Dr. Sandra Mayfield, Regent

English Department
University of Central Oklahoma
100 North University
Edmond, OK 73034
(405) 974-5606
smayfield@ucok.edu

Cathy L. Jamison-Hume, Representative

(University of Central Oklahoma)
9821 N. McKinley
Oklahoma City, OK 73114
Cathyhume@cox.net

Donna Gregory, Associate Representative

(Oklahoma City University)
4206 N. Drexal Blvd #19
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
dgregory@okcu.edu

Do you have ideas to discuss, concerns to voice, or chapter news for the next edition of the *Southwestern Quarterly*? Send them to Cathyhume@cox.net, and I'll try to address your needs. When sending news or letters for publication in the *Southwestern Quarterly*, just remember space is limited so please be brief, 250 words or less. Any submissions that need to be edited due to space constraints will be returned to the writer for them to do so. This will prevent misunderstandings that arise from editing.