

Sigma Tau Delta  
Southwestern Regional Newsletter  
April/May 2004

**Regional Calendar  
of Events  
April 2004**

**April 18-24**

**National Library Week**

Celebrate by treating your on-campus library staff to cookies

**April 24**

**Oklahoma Centennial  
Book Festival**

Oklahoma City University  
Oklahoma City, OK  
([www.okbookfest.com](http://www.okbookfest.com))

**April 30**

**Rectangle and Review Submissions  
Due for the Spring 2005 Editions**

([www.english.org/pubs.shtml](http://www.english.org/pubs.shtml))

**April 30-May 1**

**Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc.  
Writer's Quest 2004 Conference**

Embassy Suites Hotel  
Oklahoma City, OK  
([www.owfi.org](http://www.owfi.org))

We'd like to post events for every state in our region, so please e-mail Donna at [dgregory@okcu.edu](mailto:dgregory@okcu.edu) or Leah at [liknayan@hotmail.com](mailto:liknayan@hotmail.com) if you have an event you'd like to publicize.

**Meet Your Representatives**



Donna Gregory, SR; Dr. Sidney Watson, Regent; Leah Iknayan, ASR

**Meet Your Regent**

The Southwestern Region has a great deal to be proud of this year. Our chapters inducted just over 1100 new members, perhaps a record for our region. The Omega Phi chapter at Oklahoma City University hosted a regional conference--the only regional Sigma Tau Delta conference to be held this year, and our members did well at the national convention, walking away with several awards. Our chapters are growing, both in members and in the various activities they sponsor. Much of this very positive picture is due to the hard work and dedication of Dr. Sandra Mayfield, whose leadership has energized and motivated many of us during her tenure as Southwestern Regent.

It is with some trepidation that I look toward trying to fill her shoes. While I believe I have some experiences as sponsor of Chi Delta chapter at Oklahoma Baptist University that may prove useful to other chapters, I'd really like to hear from the chapters about the kinds of help that you need. So please watch your emails in the next few weeks for a questionnaire (I promise to keep it brief) that will allow you to tell me what kinds of assistance would be most helpful to you. We have two terrific new student representatives in Donna Gregory and Leah Iknayan, and I think we have an exciting year ahead of us. I look forward to working with all of you.

## Comments from Sandra Mayfield

It has been a privilege and pleasure to serve as your Southwestern Regent for the past two years. Because of other professional commitments, I did not seek re-election for this position. I want you to know that I have enjoyed very much serving in this position and meeting so many of you in person.

Last year, the Southwestern Region had 1100 new members, a record for us. We were also the only region to host a regional conference.

Congratulations to winners at the national convention: Joel Gagnon, Williams Baptist College, 1st place, Personal Essay; Rachel Colle, Oklahoma Baptist University, 2nd place, Fiction; Pullett Roddam Golden, Texas A&M, Honorable Mention, Convention Theme Essay; Joy Mills, Ouachita Baptist University, 2nd place, Bad Poetry; University of North Texas, 2nd place, Outstanding Website; Midwestern State University, 2nd place, Outstanding

Chapter; Oklahoma City University, 1st place, Outstanding Literary Arts Journal; Oklahoma Baptist University, 2nd place, Outstanding Literary Arts Journal; Lauren Allison Bruner, Oklahoma Christian University, Junior Scholarship; Amanda Kay Cawthon, Texas Woman's University, Junior Runner-Up Scholarship; Alissa Michelle Nephew, Oklahoma Christian University, Senior Runner-Up Scholarship; Priscilla Madeline Rice, University of Central Oklahoma, Graduate Scholarship; and Brica Colburn Easterly, East Texas Baptist University, Somerville Teaching Award.

Dr. Sidney Watson of Oklahoma Baptist University is the finest kind of leader, and she will be a very supportive and innovative leader for the Southwestern Region. Let me request from all of you strong support for her in this position.



## Sign Up for the Southwestern Regional E-mail List

Newsletters  
Calendar of Events  
Announcements  
Conference Info

**Staying Connected is Easy!**

**Contact Donna or Leah**

*Well I might take a plane, I might take a train...*

## Meet Your SR

Howdy y'all! Donna Gregory here. I'm sitting at home on a rainy Saturday afternoon listening to Jimmy Buffett's "Cheeseburger in Paradise" and remembering all the good times we had just weeks ago in Daytona Beach. It seems like yesterday when we were taking our pleasant walks and having our pleasant talks along the shores of the Atlantic.

Everyone was so enthused in Daytona, and I hope that excitement carries through the entire year. One of the biggest challenges facing every region after each national convention is fueling the momentum. That's where the regional leaders come in. This year, our region has a new Regent, Student Rep, and Associate Student Rep, and we're looking forward to

working together to make the Southwestern region hotter than ever. But we can't do anything without *you*.

Read through this newsletter – there's a lot of information contained in it to help you stay connected with national and regional news. We have a lot planned this year, including a regional conference in the fall (keep your fingers crossed!) and inter-region service projects. Make certain you sign up to be on the regional e-mail list so you won't miss out on anything.

If you have anything you'd like to recommend or discuss, feel free to e-mail me at [dgregory@okcu.edu](mailto:dgregory@okcu.edu).



Donna Gregory with Scott Morris at the National Convention



Leah Iknayan reading bad poetry

## Meet Your ASR

My name is Leah Iknayan. I am a graduate student from the University of North Texas. I have been active with Sigma Tau Delta for two years. I served as the Tau Delta chapter's publicity chair during the 2002-2003 school year. I also served as the Tau Delta chapter's president during the 2003-2004 school year. I am excited to be involved in Sigma Tau Delta on the regional and national level. I look forward to serving our region in any way I am needed.

Recently, at the annual convention in Daytona Beach, I had the opportunity to meet with several members from our region. I am excited to see so many active and involved chapters. I hope that we, as a region, can do great things through our service projects and activities. This next year will be a very successful one, and I am so proud to be involved! Contact me at [liknayan@hotmail.com](mailto:liknayan@hotmail.com) if I can help you with anything.

*If I have to walk, I'm going there just the same...*

## Operation STD-Day a Success



Last year, the Southwestern region implemented Operation STD-Day. Our mission? To take Daytona Beach by storm. Did we complete our objective? Yes!

The Daytona convention was the largest to date for Sigma Tau Delta, and everyone is to be congratulated for such a successful gathering. The Southwestern regional caucus saw the most number of delegates for our region ever. There were several familiar faces from the regional conference last fall plus some new faces as well. Breakout sessions proved the Southwestern region is home to some of the most creative and innovative members of Sigma Tau Delta, and the region had several award and scholarship winners. We even had a Bad Poetry winner.

Besides stimulating presentations and panels, conference attendees were also treated to readings and advice from essayist Sarah

Vowell, former U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins, and Southern novelist Scott Morris. Every person in attendance took away something inspiring from each discussion, and groups of people could be seen talking into the late evening about the day's presentations and speakers. (By the way, the Southwestern region can neither confirm nor deny any responsibility regarding Scott Morris's pleasant, late-night talk on the beach Friday.)

At the end of a very exhaustive, educational, and fun four days, it was discovered that only "English people" can spend four wonderful Spring Break days in Daytona Beach without benefit of any ultraviolet ray therapy. After all, who can work on a tan when brilliance like Sarah Vowell, Billy Collins, and Scott Morris are inside, outshining even the brightest Daytona sun?

### Alumni Alert

Are you graduating soon? If so, make certain you stay active in Sigma Tau Delta by joining the Alumni-at-Large chapter. Annual dues are \$13, which includes a subscription to *The Rectangle*, Central Office newsletters, and snail mail materials for the annual international convention.

There is Sigma Tau Delta life after graduation, should you choose it. We hate to see our alumni graduate and leave us. Joining the Alumni-at-Large chapter will ensure your

continued involvement. Additionally, this is an exciting time to be a member of the Alumni-at-Large chapter since it's in its infancy – you can be part of the defining force of alumni involvement in Sigma Tau Delta!

For those alumni who would like more information, please visit the national website at <http://www.english.org/alumni.shtml> for the application form.

*I'm going to Kansas City, Kansas City, here I come*

*Kansas City*

Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller, ©1959

## New in the News

This year, the Southwestern region is going to try something unprecedented – monthly regional newsletters. We'd also like to introduce some new features, such as "5x5," "Academics' Alley," and "Spotlight on Service." Also new to this year's newsletter will be a division of duties. In an effort to make the newsletter a collaborative and more regional effort, Donna will be the copy editor and Leah will be the layout editor.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter. Following is an explanation of the new features which will begin next in June:

### 5x5

"Five-by-five" is an old World War II aviation term used to signify that everything is in order. *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* fans may recognize the phrase as a favorite of Faith's to reassure the Scooby gang that everything is cool. For the Southwestern region, "5x5" is going to be a regular column each month that, hopefully, highlights one chapter from each of our five states in the region. To make this work, however, we're going to have to get input from chapters on a regular basis. We know some chapters are larger and more active than others, but we don't want the smaller, less active chapters to shy away from this. Even if you have two people attend an event, that's newsworthy. That's camaraderie in action – which is the basic premise of Sigma Tau Delta – and we want to know about it.

The deadline for "5x5" will be the 10th of each month. If you have an article to submit, please e-mail it to Donna at [dgregory@okcu.edu](mailto:dgregory@okcu.edu).

### Academics' Alley

Sigma Tau Delta is an academic honor society, and we'd like to use "Academics' Alley" to feature some of our members doing what they do best – being good students. Have you been named Student of the Month for your university? Have you presented at a non-Sigma Tau Delta conference? Have you participated in

or judged a local History Day contest? Have you been awarded a scholarship? If so, let us know. We want to showcase our members and their good efforts, so send your write-ups to Donna at [dgregory@okcu.edu](mailto:dgregory@okcu.edu).

### Spotlight on Service

In addition to being an academic honor society, Sigma Tau Delta is also a service organization. In the rush of deadlines and tests, we sometimes forget that we should give back to our schools and our communities. "Spotlight on Service" is the chance for those chapters and chapter members who have participated in service projects to share the experience with fellow Sigma Tau Deltans. Service is inspiring, and it's also the cure-all for all those aches and pains that come from college life, like broken hearts, bad grades, and ten pound weight gains (yeah, that happens even in STD). If you want to shine the service spotlight on your chapter, just e-mail Donna at [dgregory@okcu.edu](mailto:dgregory@okcu.edu).

We hope to make the monthly newsletters a source of information, entertainment, and inspiration. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please e-mail Donna at (you guessed it) [dgregory@okcu.edu](mailto:dgregory@okcu.edu). And, of course, comments and suggestions are welcome. This is your newsletter, and we want to make certain it benefits you to the fullest.

## Staying Connected

There are several ways to stay plugged in to the stream of Sigma Tau Delta news. We recommend you take advantage of every method listed below in order to stay current with all things STD.

### National Website

We can't emphasize enough how important the national website is as the primary resource for Sigma Tau Delta news and information. Visit it at [www.english.org](http://www.english.org) to find conference information, chapter fundraising, service, and activity ideas, cool STD graphics, fellow chapter website links, scholarship, grant, and award information, an events calendar, plus the eNews subscription link and newsletters for every region. The national website is truly your best and smartest Sigma Tau Delta friend. Bookmark it and use it often!

### Bulletin Board

Found on the national website, the Sigma Tau Delta Bulletin Board is fun and the absolute best way to stay in contact with members and alumni from across the nation. The Southwestern region has its own folder, and Leah and I will be using it regularly to announce information in-between newsletters. There are also sections to discuss chapter issues, fundraising, literature, and pedagogy. The Bulletin Board can be found at <http://www.english.org/cgi-bin/yabb/YaBB.pl>.

### eNews

Every month, Tony Gustafson, the national webmaster, sends out this wonderful collection of Sigma Tau Delta tidbits called "eNews." If you haven't signed up for it already, we highly recommend you do so now. To subscribe, go to the national website at [www.english.org](http://www.english.org) and, using the feedback form, send e-mail to the Central Office requesting the password. After receiving the password from the Central Office, go back to the national website, click on "eNews Subscription" in the left hand

navigation bar, enter the password, and click "Submit Password." The password will change at the beginning of each academic year, so members should always contact the Central Office for the password. (Please note: the password should not be posted online, nor should a direct link to the subscription page be posted.)

Chapters are also encouraged to write articles about their activities and service projects to submit to eNews. Tony tries to get eNews out on the first day of each month, so if you want to submit an article please have it to him no later than the 20th of each month. eNews is a great way to share what your chapter is doing. And who knows? Maybe someone will see your idea and say, "That looks like fun. We should do that."

### Regional Newsletters

We'll be e-mailing newsletters monthly, so please be certain you're on our e-mail list if you want to receive them. To be added to the newsletter mailing list, please contact Donna Gregory at [dgregory@okcu.edu](mailto:dgregory@okcu.edu) or Leah Iknayan at [liknayan@hotmail.com](mailto:liknayan@hotmail.com). If at any time you decide you don't want to receive the newsletters, please e-mail us to unsubscribe from mailing list.



*Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard are sweeter ...  
in the sounds of silence, in the songs of the silenced*