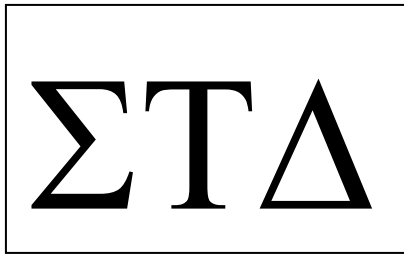


Sigma

Tau

Delta



-Fall 2008-

Greetings from the SR

Katie St. Martin, Keene State College

So much of autumn hearkens to their wistful departure, falling color. But, alas! Papers beckon midterms loom large, and election resounding crash, reality propels poetic for paragraphs on end, let is autumn, and the connected Frost knew of it when he penned “Nothing Gold Can Stay,” the entirety of which was painted in a mural on Mrs. Lincoln’s classroom wall. I can’t be the only nervous freshman that found solace in those words. It calmed the “first day of high school” jitters just enough for me to return me to my center, literature and writing. Not only was the poem fodder for reflection, it provided immense comfort. I’m sure many of you can think of similar instances where English quite literally was a saving grace.



the beauty of language. Geese trumpet leaves whisper sonnets in a riot of from the steno pad or monitor, results must be tallied. With a us back down to earth. Lest I wax us take a moment to appreciate all that desire for artful expression. Robert

The theme of our upcoming international convention is *Reflections*. Whether in the presence of nature or a bustling metropolis, students of English are well versed in creative reflection. We are all, it seems, prone to fits of contemplation, musing, deliberation, and yes, *reflection*. For those of us who have not inherited the disposition, the tomes we’re assigned each semester provide ample mental calisthenics.

Rest assured, this issue of the Eastern Region newsletter is replete with points to ponder, the most concrete being, “Just what can I do with a degree in English?” Following are responses from six alumni of Sigma Tau Delta, each reflecting on the path they chose after graduation. It is a bridge that many of us will soon cross, and are most certainly preparing for at present. Other morsels to enjoy at your leisure include reflections on last year’s convention and greetings from my Eastern colleagues, ASR Brittany Blake and Regent Sarah Dangelantonio.

As you venture forth into finals, take the time to reflect—on the season, the view just outside your window, ars poetica, whatever your fancy may be. In this bustling age of uncertainty, one constant remains: the capacity to meditate on our own thoughts, feelings, and experiences. In the coming months, take that

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- Connecting Conventions
- *Twilight*
- *Chapter activity ideas*
- And much more!

extra moment to reflect. Write it down. Share. And repeat. I promise: no exercise has felt so refreshing.

Reflections from a 9th Grade

English Teacher

Amber Bergeron

The Churchill School and Center

Manhattan, NY

Someone told me once that elementary school teachers become educators for the kids, and that high school educators teach for the love of their subject. Although I only partially agree with this statement, I have to say that my passion for English and literature has always given me the desire to share my love for the subject with others.

New York City is an amazing place to teach- the high school kids in my classroom are as diverse as they come- they come from different cultural and religious backgrounds, they have varying political beliefs (which they share freely), and they speak all different languages. There is, however, one thing all of my students have in common- they all have various types of learning disabilities.

At The Churchill School and Center, being a teacher is a unique experience- there is no dictated curriculum, and one major goal- to be sure that these students pass their state exams, as they are expected to be on par with students in all New York state public schools. A love of English and literature is imperative- the attention spans and other verbal and written hindrances that these students have require it. English class, for the majority of these children, can be a physical and mental stress- words often don't make sense, and if they do, a lot of students cannot find the words to verbally describe what they want to say; others with dysgraphia cannot physically form letters with pen and paper, and for the most part, grammar is a non-issue in their writing- something they may never fully grasp.

Coming to Churchill forced me, someone who naturally excelled in English and thoroughly enjoyed her time sharing that love with other Sigma Tau members, to think outside the box, as the cliché goes. Putting aside my inner grammar-nazi has been a difficult task, but a challenge I am thoroughly enjoying. Howard Thurman once said, "don't ask yourself what the world needs; ask yourself what makes you come alive. And then go and do that. Because what the world needs are people who have come alive."

The classroom makes me come alive. My students are some of the smartest, wittiest kids I have ever met and I am proud to have the opportunity and the challenge to put to use all of the skills I learned at Keene State College, and the passion I was able to develop through Sigma Tau Delta. It is my goal to help these children find *their* passion- in English, or otherwise- and to help them come alive.

Reflections of a Copy Editor

Bethany Lasko

The Eagle Times

Claremont, NH

As an English major, I graduated from college full of hopes for that little piece of paper slipped between the black leather binding. The last two months of school had seen far too many applications for positions, and in the months to come Monster and Careerbuilder.com became my only reason to get online.

Home was different. Summer wasn't just one more stretch of time before I went back to school, back to being completely independent, and I'm not quite sure if there's a way to explain. It was just different. I went back to work at my local hospital, in a position I had kept throughout college, and continued my search for a position. One of the nurses in the emergency room had a friend who worked for a publishing house in New York City, and because of the relationship I had with her, my resume found its way to the big city, on top of the piles and piles of other resumes from recent grads. Two weeks later, I got an email and a request to come down for an interview with a company by the name of Simon and Schuster Publishing. I bought a new suit, made copies of my resume, and put a binder of my work together, should anyone wish to see it.

That job didn't pan out, nor did the seven or eight interviews after it. I didn't have the right experience, and nobody was willing to take a chance and give it to me. So I unpacked my college stuff and found extra room in my parents' basement. I hung my suit up, ready for the next interview, and kept my eyes peeled. Newspapers, magazines, Internet job sites, I did everything I could think of to find my place.

A year went by. I worked at the hospital in the meantime, helped out at home. And then I found a posting for a copy editor at my local newspaper. Tired of writing the usual cover letter, I took a chance, and styled my letter like a newspaper article. I included a photo, gave it a headline ("Local woman seeks employment from newspaper"), and sent it on its way. That was a Friday at 10 a.m. Three hours later, I had an email and an interview for Tuesday. Wednesday, I had the job.

I fibbed. A month into the job, I can admit that. The job called for experience using a program, and I fibbed and said I had used it before. Truth was, I had not. But I was so tired of not being given a chance. So I took one. I got lucky, and the program was not hard to learn. Within a day, I had the basics understood, and within a week I was designing my own pages. As a copy-editor, it's my job to read and correct every article written by our reporters. With our newspaper being as small as it is, that isn't so difficult. It is also my job to paginate. I design the pages of the newspaper, I decide where the stories go, where the photos

Check out the Eastern Region FaceBook page for information on our soon-to-be-launched *Population 485* Reading Circle Blog – join other Eastern Region members in an on-going discussion of this year's Convention Common Reader!
<http://population485.blogspot.com/>

Calling all alumni!

Involvement in Sigma Tau Delta doesn't have to end with graduation! Follow this link for info on our Alumni Epsilon chapter:

<http://www.english.org/sigmatd/alumni/>

go, and, the best part, which stories make it to the paper. Only one month in, I haven't yet designed page one, but I understood from the get-go that eventually I will.

It's wonderful, really, not only to have a job during and after this financial crisis running our country, but a job that I like and that I do well. But it has made me realize that I'm not done with school yet. That first summer, I

almost hated my degree. I blamed it for me not having a job, and I worried that it wasn't enough. Almost that it was a joke, to have graduated without a specific field in mind, with this one slip of paper stuck in a black leather binding. I will go back to school, because the pay scale for having only a Bachelor of Arts in English is not as high as I feel I deserve. I'm smarter than that, and I have more capacity to learn.

But, I have a job. I have a good job, one that I have trained for four years for. I enjoy what I do, and I am glad that I had the opportunity; I'm glad I took a chance.

Reflections from a Graduate Student

Chris Small

Boston College

Boston, MA

As Vice President of my undergraduate Sigma Tau Delta chapter, a question often put to me by potential new members was in regard to what academic benefits could be gleaned from joining an honors society. There are a plethora of ways $\Sigma\tau\Delta$ benefits undergraduates, but as a current graduate student, my purpose here today is to outline just a few of the ways Sigma Tau Delta prepares those who plan on continuing in academia after their undergraduate programs.

Community. We all have friends who enjoy discussing literature outside the classroom, and other friends for whom coursework closes as soon as class time ends. An honors society encourages a community of students who continue to be engaged in discussion beyond the time spent in class, exposing each other to material outside their current workload or the department's usual curriculum. This discussion of literature is in a context that fosters engagement with one of the most important issues facing literary studies today: how the study of literature engages with the greater world outside of academics.



Academic preparedness. Every semester, professors need to fine-tune their teaching style to the classroom population. We readily recognize that this means an English class full of freshman Mathematics majors will have a very different scope and direction than a class of senior English majors; but of equal importance is fine-tuning of the individual attention given to each student. All professors are

able to identify exemplar students eventually, but belonging to an honors society means that those students are marked and identified quickly. A professor can provide graduate school-bound students an amount of encouragement and introduction to material beyond the curriculum that is invaluable to their future success. In my own experience, this meant a far better foundation in literary theory than I would have had in a basic course load.

Introduction to the trends, problems, and discussions in literary studies. Students entering graduate programs can expect far more than a few more years reading and writing about books. Graduate school means full-on engagement with departmental politics and disagreements about the place of literary studies, both within the English discipline and academia as a whole. In graduate studies higher emphasis is put on critical and theoretical frameworks, and students are expected to understand the critical landscape, and how that landscape has changed and will continue to permute in the future. As members of an English honors society, students have more interaction with the department than most undergraduates, and are getting their first introduction to these conversations before committing to graduate school.

Being in an English honors society is an extremely valuable part of the undergraduate experience. For students planning on continuing a career in graduate school, undergraduate participation in Sigma Tau Delta is an excellent way of beginning to generate familiarity with the conversations surrounding literary studies, and prepare for the kind of environment they will find in their graduate programs.

Reflections from a Law School Student

Peter Beauchamp

New York Law School

New York, NY

People will sometimes ask me why an enthusiastic English major would forgo the world of literature and poetry for the rigors of law school. Why not stick with your original passion and pursue a graduate degree in literature? I try to answer them in this way: as far as I'm concerned, I will never stop being an English major, and that part of me is an ideal fuel and foundation for the study of law.

What I love so much about English and Sigma Tau Delta is that they are the meeting ground for people who have an insatiable curiosity about the human condition. When we read Dostoevsky and Dickinson, we're doing much more than simply indulging in a prized pastime; what we're doing is immersing ourselves in some of the most poignant and profound studies of the human spirit ever created. Literature and poetry tell us more about why we love, hate, hurt, and hope than any empirical study in the hard sciences ever could. Our collective glory and curse is that we are as unpredictable and irrational as the timeless literary characters of our study make us out to be.



Law is the tangible manifestation of our collected values and experiences, assembled with a view toward affecting the future conduct of people. In other words, to study law is to study the ways in which we attempt to shape the human condition for the better. Any attempt to shape the way in which we live our lives would be futile without first understanding what we value and why we do the things we do. Any law student will tell you that one of the most frustrating things about the field is how seemingly unpredictable and arbitrary the law can appear to be. An English major, however, has long trudged through this field and is prepared to tackle ambiguity with a critical eye and a nuanced heart.

The practical advantages this experience brings to law school are also legion. Appeals are won, contracts are invalidated, and constitutional protections are established by the minutia of comma placement, the precision of syntax, and a whole lot of creativity. The attention to detail this line of work requires is part and parcel of any English major's undergraduate curriculum. The combination of this and the natural-born enthusiasm for scholarship that any member of Sigma Tau Delta possesses makes for a formidable law student.

I want to devote my life to helping other people. Studying literature and poetry fostered the desire and understanding and studying law will furnish the tools. I am a member of the *New York Law School Law Review*, I tutor first year law students as a teacher's assistant, and I have already worked in two different public interest law offices. There is no doubt that I owe a great deal of this success to the curiosity, enthusiasm, and experience I gleaned as an English major and Sigma Tau Delta member.

Reflections from an 8th Grade English Teacher

Dominic DiBenedetto

Keene Middle School

Keene, NH

I recently got into hiking. There's a group of educators from the school system in which I teach eighth grade English that goes hiking every weekend, and they invited anyone who was interested to come along. As a full-time teacher, and concurrently, a full-time graduate student, I imagined that hiking would be relaxing and peaceful. And it was. The first hike we went on was in Hancock, NH, on a trail that took us (what I thought) rigorously 1,940 feet. We were surrounded by beautiful end-of-September foliage, and atop the summit, we had three-hundred-sixty-degree views. It was amazing. Our second hike was, well, different. I guess, in hindsight, what we did in Hancock was more of a nature walk; this hike had me scaling sixty-foot sheer rock faces (that were practically vertical) and standing atop a 3,000-foot summit...all in my all-terrain sneakers. Sanity aside, I knew for a fact that I was going to plunge to my early demise. From those experiences, I gleaned two lessons: If I plan on sticking with this hiking club, I am going to need hiking boots...and I need to prepare for nature walks, as well as sheer rock faces.

I suppose the lessons from these experiences can be translated into teacher speak: As an educator, I need to have the appropriate materials, and I need to be ready for any type of student. As a teacher of English literature and writing, especially, I have to have a broad skill set from which I can select any



specific tool for a job. I need to plan well, but be flexible. I need to be energetic and creative, yet still have structure and routines. I also need to know how to have fun, and when to pull rank, so to speak. Whether one of my eighth graders doesn't know what a gerund is, or whether she has trouble recalling how to pick out a metaphor, I need to know how, when, and in what way to help her. I have to be a liaison between my students and the administration; I additionally must rely on the assistance of my colleagues, especially being a middle school educator on a team. As an educator, I consistently have to fulfill the paradox of being the masterful,

confident provider of knowledge, and simultaneously be a learner. The reason I feel I am able to be a skillful teacher has definitely been influenced by my experiences as a member of Sigma Tau Delta, as well as serving as Vice President for a year. I had to rely on both my general members, as well as my fellow officers to accomplish the goals we all had. Sigma Tau Delta was one of the most exciting groups for me to be a part of, and I often think of the great times we all shared; whether I am climbing a mountain, reading a book, teaching a thesis statement, or discussing a character's motives, I continually reflect on many of the skills I gained from working with such a great group of people.

Reflections from an Alternative Field

Kellie Forrest

Olive Kids

Marlborough, NH

I never thought that as soon as I graduated college I would be working a steady nine to five job for a company that sells children's bedding. As an undergraduate student, I had lofty dreams of writing as I traveled the world with a journal and camera, documenting my increasing worldly knowledge and returning home to be published in a world-renowned publication. But as the end of my college career loomed ahead, and the impending doom of "the real world" crept up on me, I began to realize that as unglamorous as it might seem, I needed a job. Student loans are no joking matter, and there was no way I could pay them on the income I was envisioning.

Reading and writing has always been a passion of mine, but I was never entirely sure how I would utilize my skills after graduation. As I began to think more about my immediate future, I contemplated a job in the business world.

After searching around the area, I heard about a company called Olive Kids, and I decided to interview for a position.

Driving up the winding dirt driveway in Marlborough, New Hampshire, I could tell that this was not a typical big business. The company was founded and is run by artistic husband and wife Russell and Anita Brandwein. When they began decorating the room of their first child ten years ago, they were looking for bedding and accessories that were not covered with cartoon characters. After searching without finding what they wanted, they decided to go into business. Olive Kids is the proud manufacturer of unique

Mind Murals!!

Hey all you loyal Sigmates! We need some help with a really fantastic project: a Literary/Arts Magazine called Mind Murals. Submissions are due in on the 15th of January, 2009 to easternlitjournal@gmail.com.

Here's some specifics for you:

Written Words

- pieces should be no longer than 1,500 words
- please limit submissions to no more than 5 items (feel free to mix and match though)
- submissions must be typed, double spaced and formatted to 8.5x11 size
- email submissions should be in a .doc format

Artwork

- black and white original work only
- photographs are acceptable
- remember only 5 submissions total
- email submissions should be in a .png format
- We also need a cover piece reflecting on the title of the journal!!

children's bedding and décor including personalized art prints and clocks, with accessories from placemats to bookmarks. After I learned what Olive Kids was all about, and how the company was run, I was hooked.

Russell and Anita still run the business out of their home, although the barn on their property has been transformed into the art and production departments. I work at the offices and warehouse down the street, helping to keep our customers happy and promoting the Olive Kids name. My job is in the business services department and I work as the business services coordinator. My position includes overseeing purchase orders for our many online retailers, corresponding with customers, researching new outlets for selling, analyzing how Olive Kids is promoted, and writing newsletters and emails on a daily basis.

After working at Olive Kids for a few weeks, one of my coworkers commented on the clarity of a letter I had sent out. She marveled at how I said exactly what she was thinking, but in written form. A few days later, my boss pulled me aside and said he was most impressed by my ability to communicate clearly both verbally and in written form. I realized that without a doubt, my skills as an English major have influenced my abilities beyond the classroom. Communication is a vital aspect not only in the world of a traveling novelist but in the everyday working world as well. Regardless of what job I hold, or where I might travel, the skills I learned in the English field have helped to propel me forward with success and self-confidence.

Greetings from the ASR

Brit A. Blake, Westfield State College

Hello everyone,

Here's hoping that your semesters have all started smoothly. For those of you who like myself are Seniors, CONGRATULATIONS!!! The end is near!

There is so much going on behind the scenes as we plan for another fabulous convention. All the SR's and ASR's have been busy hashing out details for the leadership workshop and the bookdrive, to name a few activities. From what I've heard from some of the SR's, Minneapolis is going to be just as exciting and wonderful as Louisville was (though I am still missing Fourth Street Live!).

Here in the East, Katie and I have been busy bees getting out this newsletter and planning for the first Eastern Literary and Art Journal, MIND MURALS (please see other article for further details.)

In my Spring greeting I renewed my pledge of communication and I want to remind everyone that Katie and I are here because we want to serve your needs. So again, feel free to drop either of us an email with any questions or comments. We love to hear from fellow Sigmates. Cannot wait to see you all in March! Have a safe and fun-filled semester!

Definitely Not the *Twilight* of this Lady's Career!

Brit A. Blake, Westfield State College



How can we discuss literature in 2008 without mentioning Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* Series? Like J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter*, *Twilight* has caught the attention of everyone in America and abroad. From Wal-Mart to Barnes and Noble, and even a few select CVS stores, there were midnight parties celebrating the release of the newest book in the series *Breaking Dawn*. Yes, reviews were mixed from both critics and fans alike, but let's face it-over 1.3 million copies were sold on the first day alone and that number has since skyrocketed.

Don't worry. For those who haven't read the series, this article will contain no spoilers since I myself haven't finished the entire set yet. But this year is a little different then others for Ms. Meyers. Not only has she graced such lists as: New York Times best seller list, American Library Association "Top Ten Books for Reluctant Readers" and their "Top Ten Best Books for Young Readers," but her works have been translated into over twenty languages across the globe! (For a larger list of her accomplishments and awards, see her website www.stepheniemeyers.com)

Okay, okay. So what is something that you all might not know about Meyers? She is a native of our very own Eastern States!! (Warning short biography to follow.)

Meyers was born in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1973 but spent most of her childhood in Arizona. She eventually went to Brigham Young University in Utah and graduated with a B.A. in English in 1995. She has three sons with her husband, Christian. She is a fan of art and music and on her websites lists my beloved William Shakespeare as one of her influences.

So what is next on this lady's list? Now that the original books in her series are out, Meyer's will next be releasing a book called *Midnight Sun*, which will retell the *Twilight* story from Edward's prospective. She will also be releasing a companion reader to go along with the *Twilight* series before the year is over.



Yes I am an English major and books are my first love, but I was definitely first online November 20th at 11:59 pm, anxiously awaiting the movie!

FROM LOUISVILLE TO MINNEAPOLIS: CONVENTIONS PAST AND PRESENT

Alison Heinonen

Keene State College

For the last couple weeks I have struggled to somehow condense the incredible week-long journey of attending last year's Sigma Tau Delta Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, into something short and bearable to read. I have decided that this extended form listing is the easiest and most efficient way to do so, but I'll let you decide for yourself.



WHAT WAS I LOOKING FORWARD TO?

- A change of scenery,
- A break from homework and the frosty (okay, that's being mild, the *freezing*) campus of my New England college,
- The tickle of a slight southern accent on my ear drums,
- An opportunity to meet other people who knew the difference between Dickens and Dickenson,
- An opportunity to meet other people who had read works by Steinbeck and Hawthorne because they actually *wanted* to and not because of any assignments in high school,
- An opportunity to meet other people who had heard of *Memoirs of A Geisha* and *Atonement* before they were turned into blockbuster films.



WHAT DID I EXPERIENCE?

- All of the above,
- A freak snow storm (from everywhere we heard "I didn't know it snowed in Kentucky!"),
- Enlightenment,
- Sweet accommodations in a brand new hotel,
- Amazing food (For the best sushi of your life try the Caviar Japanese Restaurant, just around the corner from Fourth Street Live),
- Connection,
- Laughter, Laughter, Laughter,
- Tears (there were some seriously moving pieces of non-fiction),

- More laughter (never have I been given so much fodder for the creation of inside jokes).

WHAT DID I DISCOVER?

That we were in not just in “Louisville,” but also in Looey-ville, Lo-ah-Vul, Loo-ville, and various other names starting with ‘L’ and ending roughly with ‘ville,’ depending on whom we asked. The city had as much to offer as the remarkable minds at work at the Convention did, and the people and history we encountered everywhere we looked served to be more than culturally gratifying.

WHAT DID I COME AWAY WITH?

Believe me, I can’t list all of it here, but for starters, here’s what I came away from the conference with:

- Great stories (some poignant, some unbelievable, but most of them funny as all get out) to tell my friends back at school,
- A *much* stronger bond to my chapter members (living in a hotel room with three other girls for a week wound up leading not to the insanity I thought it would; instead it lead to sharing a spectacular apartment with one of them once summer rolled around!),
- Enough conference paraphernalia to last me a lifetime (but I want more this year; my bibliophile wardrobe again needs some expansion, though my “Bringing Nerdy Back” t-shirt and “Books are Sexy” beanie will always hold the biggest place in my heart),
- A list of the coolest places to visit (and the best places to eat) for anyone who’s even thinking about going to Louisville, Looah-vuhl, or Looeyveel,
- Some amazing new friends from all over the States (and beyond!),
- The reassurance that, yes, bookish people are indeed the best people to spend any amount of time with and I am truly lucky to be able to consider myself in the category...

And, most of all, the determination to get myself to the next annual Sigma Tau Delta Convention because I know there is no possible way that I will have anything but another one of the best experiences of my young life...but this time in a new city, with some new gifted and intelligent people.

Perhaps you will be one of them, in which case, I will see you there.

Greetings from the Regent Sarah Dangelantonio Franklin Pierce University, Rindge, NH



Once again, fall has come to an end and winter is almost upon us in further reaches of the Northeast. The deadline for submitting papers and original works for presentation at this year's convention will soon be at hand.

Also tied in with the upcoming convention is the annual Regents' Common Reader Awards. The award is given to the top 5 Chapter activities associated with this year's convention common reader, Michael Perry's *Population 485: Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a Time*. To encourage the reading of the book and also promote Chapter activities, I will be awarding prizes to the top 5 entries of Eastern Region Chapter Activities that incorporate the book. So hold a reading circle or ask a faculty member to facilitate a group discussion, set up a blog – the only limitation is your chapter's imagination (and of course using *Population 485!*). To be considered for the awards, simply submit a letter to me explaining what your chapter did to celebrate the book. The more detailed the better, and pictures or flyers or other materials should also be submitted if available. Entries must be received before March 25, 2008 to be considered.

Who knows, maybe sponsoring a *Population 485* event will inspire your Chapter to hold even more events! Here are some possible activities that require little or no monies, merely interested students and faculty advisors, a venue, and perhaps some signage!

Check out the links to get more information, event kits, posters and more!



African American
Read-In

Celebrate the African-American Read-In February 2, 2009.

<http://www.ncte.org/action/aari/packetinfo>

Celebrate Poem in Your Pocket Day on April 30, 2009.

<http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/406>

Sponsor a poetry read-a-thon anytime!

<http://www.poets.org/page.php/prmID/318>



Promote awareness of censorship with a Banned-Books Read-Out (Banned Books Week is in September).

<http://www.ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooksweek.cfm>

Support Childhood literacy and participate in Jumpstart's Read for the Record Event.

http://www.readfortherecord.org/site/PageServer?pagename=about_main

Support Family Literacy Day (usual in November, but you can celebrate anytime!)

http://www.famlit.org/site/c.gtJWJdMQIsE/b.2149665/k.F0C5/National_Family_Literacy_Day_November_1.htm



Sponsor a Read-Out event for Latino Heritage Month.

<http://www.tolerance.org/teach/activities/activity.jsp?ar=709>

Sponsor a Read-Out event for Native American Heritage Month.

<http://www.loc.gov/topics/nativeamericans/>

Celebrate *Population 485* and be eligible to win a \$50 prize!!

Book Drives for Better Lives

Katherine St. Martin, Student Representative

Each year, Sigma Tau Delta sponsors a national service project. In years past, chapters have brought book donations to the international convention. Hundreds of titles then made their way to benefit a deserving organization that had been selected as the Society's annual philanthropy.



This year, with fuel and luggage costs on the rise, Sigma Tau Delta has selected an organization that will allow for considerable flexibility when participating in the national service project. Hauling dozens of books to the convention is hereby relegated to days past!

In their mission statement, cofounders Xavier Helgesen, Chris "Kreece" Fuchs & Jeff Kurtzman describe BetterWorld Books as, "a global bookstore that harnesses the power of capitalism to bring literacy and opportunity to people around the world." The premise of the organization is quite simple: in collecting and then selling used books, Better World Books fosters literacy through the sale of titles that otherwise might have gone to waste. Make a difference. Start your Better World Books drive today!!



- * choose to benefit 1 of 4 nonprofit literacy partners
- * raise funds for your chapter at the same time
- * work with your personal BetterWorldBooks representative
- * BetterWorldBooks supplies all book drive materials and covers shipping costs
- * every chapter can participate

For more information, go to: www.english.org
To begin your chapter's book drive, email:
sigmataudelta@betterworldbooks.com

*From Maine to France and back again...
We wish you and yours a safe and happy
Holiday Season!!
And we look forward to
seeing you all in Minneapolis!!*