

# SIGMA TAU DELTA

The International English Honor Society



Eastern Regional Newsletter, Spring 2003

*Greetings from the Eastern Regional Regent and Student Representative*

The Eastern Region has, I think, had a productive year. We hosted this year's annual convention for the first time in recent memory, and we published the first ever Eastern Region Newsletter. The Cincinnati convention was, in a word, terrific. The featured speakers were all thought provoking; I found Hass's comments on translation and the politics of being poet laureate especially interesting. And the concurrent sessions were remarkable both for the high level of the materials presented and for attendance. Many of the sessions played to standing-room-only crowds. I always come away from the annual convention impressed by the papers, the poetry, and the prose, both the fiction and the creative nonfiction, that I have heard. This year was no exception. I enjoyed meeting and spending time with Robert Hass, Bernard Cooper, and Kyoko Mori. It's no wonder the annual convention has become one of the high points of my academic year. Kevin Stemmler did a tremendous job planning and organizing this year's meeting. Clearly, we have our work cut out planning next year's activities in Daytona. In that regard, both John and I serve on the convention committee. If you have comments or speaker suggestions, we are always looking for input.

With the advent of the newsletter, we have opened up a new channel of communication. With one edition behind us, we are still trying to figure out the most efficient and cost-effective means of distributing it; this is something of an experiment for us. We do hope the newsletter will develop into a viable means of publicizing chapter accomplishments and of fostering cooperative efforts in the region. Please let us know what your chapter is up to, what seems to be working, and what events—readings, conferences, service projects—you have planned. Watch this space for news about next year's Pennsylvania Undergraduate English Major's Conference, an annual event, held every year in April, sponsored by the English Association of the Pennsylvania State Universities (EAPSU).

It's not too early to start thinking about plans for next year, especially a trip to Daytona in March. Hope to see you all there.

-Bob Crafton

Greetings once again! I am tremendously pleased to have the opportunity to represent the Eastern Region for a second term. The conference in Cincinnati, as everyone who attended will surely tell you, went over great this year. Remember that it is never too early to start thinking about next year's convention in Daytona Beach, Florida. If that's not an incentive to write a great paper, then I don't know what is! More information about the upcoming convention is always available at:

**[www.english.org](http://www.english.org)**

Everyone in the Eastern Region should bookmark this site and check it out frequently for updates on scholarships, award application deadlines, and anything else important that might be going on in our region and across the country. Everyone will also need to visit the site in order to access the regional newsletters, which are now slated to appear every April and November. The newsletter offers opportunities to members of our region to communicate and discuss issues pertaining to literature, writing, and the organization as a whole.

I am assembling an electronic mailing list of all the sponsors in the region. Your sponsor is expected to forward emails, which may include updates about the newsletter and any regional events, to members of their chapter. If you do not receive any emails throughout the fall semester, ask your sponsor to start forwarding them to you or talk me directly to get on the list!

Contact me about this or any other concerns at:

**[DarthShldn@aol.com](mailto:DarthShldn@aol.com)**

Remember to watch for emails and be sure to visit the site regularly to stay in touch with everything going on in Sigma Tau Delta. Let's make it a great year!

-John Sheldon

## Hello From the New Associate Student Representative

Greetings to everyone! I am glad to be a part of this spring's newsletter. I would like to tell you a little bit about myself, my plans for this newsletter and the Eastern regent.

I attend Edinboro University, where I am a senior in majoring in English: writing. I have plans to go on to graduate school to pursue a masters' in technical writing and rhetoric. More information about me can be seen, as well as my puppy's picture on our national websites contact page.

My hopes and plans for this newsletter are mostly simple, I want to be sure it gets to the student members of Sigma Tau Delta as well as the faculty. I also hope to arrange with John a regent activity, so that some of the universities that may not get to attend a conference can still get out and have fun.

I hope to hear from everyone: [shadowgirl79@hotmail.com](mailto:shadowgirl79@hotmail.com), feel free to mail me anytime.

-Jennifer Butler

## Who Do YOU Want to See Speak?

Sherman Alexie, Amy Tan, Robert Hass... These are just a few of the fantastic speakers we have had at our conventions over the years. However, these writers are not chosen at random and student input may greatly influence the convention committee when deciding who will speak next year.

So whom do you want to see at the 2004 convention or at other conventions in the future? Which writers are you dying to have read, speak, and sign books? This is a great question to consider over the summer as we all catch up on our reading, discover new writers, and explore old books for a second time.

Email me if you feel that the writers you love to read are the ones that belong at the next convention and I will do my best to represent the wishes of our region.

## Fostering Literacy

Since the last Newsletter did not make it to our members, I came up with a list of ideas of simple ways we, as chapters and individuals, can spread literacy. I still want feedback and ideas for the next newsletter as well as any stories you or your chapter might have about trying out some of these propositions. Please give them a shot!

- Give books as birthday or holiday presents this year
- Give a copy of your favorite book to a homeless person
- Collect textbooks that your school will not buy back and that students do not want for donation to a local school
- Volunteer to read to children, the elderly, or the blind
- Make some copies of your favorite (or even your own!) poems and place them on cars in a crowded parking lot
- Put a few books on top of the TV at home
- If you have little brothers or sisters, read to them or encourage them to read on their own

## Leadership Workshop a Success

This year's convention hosted the first annual Leadership Workshop, an event coordinated to help individual chapters from around the country learn and communicate new ways to develop events and accomplish goals.

The workshop focused on the variety methods chapters can consider in elevating enthusiasm for its members as well as finding more effective ways to organize and achieve chapter objectives.

The Workshop concluded with brief presentations from three award-winning chapters as well as a discussion session in which members shared the great variety of activities their particular chapter enjoyed. This part of the Workshop went over surprisingly well and will certainly be extended next year. Feel free to email me your suggestions about this or next year's Workshop!

## Regional Chapter News!

While the online chapter notes from our National Newsletter provide a great deal of information, as a single region we can concentrate on and applaud the accomplishments and ideas particular to schools in our proximity. What sorts of things, large and small, does your chapter do that others in our region should know about? Does your chapter want to invite a nearby school to join in on an event? Has your chapter done something you think others in our region should try out as well?

Any news, thoughts, or suggestions should be directed to me and will be published via email or in the Newsletter.

## Haiku Corner

This section provides a place where you can pause to reflect on life and nature for a moment. Please submit your own Haiku for the next Newsletter. Included here are two poems: one from the master of the form, Basho (1644-1694) and one from a modern North American writer, Bernard Einbond. Remember, the 5-7-5-syllable structure is not important so long as the primary essence of that still, natural moment comes through.

Along this way  
No travelers.  
Dusk in Autumn.

the white of her neck  
as she lifts her hair for me  
to undo her dress