

Sigma Tau Delta Eastern Region



## Special Interest Articles

Out With The Old, In With The New: Meet Your New Student Representatives!

Check Out Who Won Awards At The 2007 Convention From The Eastern Region!

## Individual Highlights

Meet The New 07-08 ASR	2
Saying Goodbye To The 06-07 ASR	2
Local Poets Corner: X.J. Kennedy	3
Talk About Pittsburgh	3
Exuding Fun In Pittsburgh	4
Trying To Get Published	5
Saying Goodbye To The 06-07 SR	6
Get Money From Sigma	7
Regent Greetings	8
Eastern Region Award Winners 2007	10

## Meet The New 07-08 SR **Ashlee Hazeltine, Eastern SR**

Hello all! I'm Ashlee Hazeltine, and I'm succeeding Keith Leonard as the Eastern Region Student Representative. I've known Keith for quite some time now, and as Student Representative, Keith did a wonderful job and I certainly big shoes to fill. I'm sad to see Keith and Janine both go, but myself and your new ASR Donald are both sure we will do a great job this year and we are both excited to get started! As for a little on myself, I will be graduating in 2008 from Westfield State College with a major in English/Creative Writing and a minor in both Political Science and Theatre, hoping to get into publishing once graduating. I'm an active member of Alpha Eta Sigma, Westfield's chapter, as well as serving as the Alumni Relations Correspondent for the chapter. I've also had my fair share of experience of publishing

and editing literary magazines as I'm finishing off this year as the Art Editor of Persona, the literary and arts magazine at Westfield. As you'll be able to see through out the newsletter, the past convention in the Eastern Region's own city of Pittsburgh, PA was quite the success, with many of our own walking away with awards and scholarships, as well as an outstanding chapter and outstanding regional sponsor awards! You can see the winners of the awards on last page of this newsletter. With the attendance of over 700 people I have hopes that the numbers will be even larger for the 2008 convention in Louisville, Kentucky! Speaking of Kentucky, the idea of a Poetry Slam has been tossed around between a few of the other Student Reps, so I will keep you posted! I look forward to meeting you all at the next convention, and if you have any questions,

comments, suggestions for the fall newsletter or even just want to say hello, please do not hesitate to do so! You can reach me at any time at [ahazeltine0165@wsc.a.edu](mailto:ahazeltine0165@wsc.a.edu).

Happy reading, good luck with all your finals and have a fantastic summer!



**"If I read a book  
and it makes my  
whole body so cold  
no fire can ever  
warm me, I know  
that is poetry."**

**- Emily Dickinson**

## Meet The New 07-08 ASR! **Donald Dilliplane, Eastern ASR**

I am sorry to see Janine go since she was such a good ASR, but I am happy to be following in strong footsteps of people who worked hard for STD and the Eastern Region. As Janine goes, I know I have a big role to fill, but I will keep in touch with her for help as well, and I look forward to working hard for you, the exciting Eastern Region of Sigma Tau Delta.

My friend, the old ASR Janine, pushed me to run for office. I wasn't really against running, but I was so nervous

As I'm sure those of you who listened to my speech and voted could tell, I'm very nervous when standing in front of people to tell them how great I am. Still, I'm happy that you could see through the palpable fog of nervousness and understand how excited I am to represent you!

As ASR, I'm hoping to work with the SR Ashlee, a fun-loving person, to make sure that you are represented well, have fun, and are happy to not only be members of Sigma Tau Delta, but that you are happy to

be on the Eastern Region. Ashlee and I keep in touch constantly through email, tossing around ideas and information. I would gladly like to hear feed back from everyone at my alternative email address:  
[DonaldMM@gmail.com](mailto:DonaldMM@gmail.com).

## Saying Goodbye To The 2006-2007 ASR **Janine Surmick, 06-07 Eastern ASR**

Saying goodbye is hard. It's bittersweet. It brings with it the conclusion of one chapter of one's life and the beginning of a new one complete with mystery and the unexpected. The end of the semester always brings about this sense of the unknown in the shade and shadow of goodbyes. For me, this semester I had to say goodbye to my college and shout, "HELLO!" to the real world. Roads and paths I never dreamt of were opened to me – graduate school, a year of service, dare I

say work... and in it all I am caught up in nostalgia, looking around my campus at friends and professors and thinking to myself, "I can't believe this is the end."

And saying goodbye to the Eastern Region as I exit my position as Associate Student Representative to be replaced by a friend and fellow classmate of mine, Donald, is also a bittersweet goodbye.

Goodbye, I seem to find myself rediscovering as I quickly write this for the

newsletter I was asked to do a week ago by both Don and Ashlee, is never a finale, but more of a hello to unknown adventures and friends. So, as I part with college and maybe the Eastern Region for sometime, I put my trust and confidence in being able to say, "Goodbye," and mean, "I'll be seeing you again."

## Local Poets Corner: X.J. Kennedy Ashlee Hazeltine, Eastern SR

As a part to the newsletter, we have decided to showcase local poets from the Eastern region. This newsletter's poet is X.J. Kennedy, who is also a Sigma Tau Delta Honor Member. Born in Dover, New Jersey and currently living in Lexington, Massachusetts, Kennedy's most recent collection of poems spanning from 1992 to 2001 is called *The Lords of Misrule*, and is a fantastic showcase of his metered style. Yep, that's right, everything Kennedy writes is perfectly metered, a feat that not too many are capable of.

X.J. Kennedy has six previously published collections, including *Nude Descending a Staircase*, which was the winner of the 1961 Academy of American Poets Lamont Prize, and

Cross Ties, winner of the 1985 Los Angeles Times Book Prize. While Kennedy is accomplished in the written word, his poetry readings are fueled with stories and even the occasional song, as Kennedy has been known to break out into Duke Ellington's "It Don't Mean A Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)" to explain his particular writing style.

*The Lords of Misrule* is Kennedy's seventh volume of poetry and showcases his wit, personality and curiosity towards the craft. The subjects of the poems are varied from Allen Ginsberg to post 9/11, to Egypt. The book takes it's title from medieval Christmas celebrations that were always presided over by someone appointed as the Lord of Misrule, something that can be related to Kennedy's poetry; the frenzy of the poems and Kennedy's

An exceptional poet who isn't afraid to write about what interests him, X.J. Kennedy is one of those poets whose poems will leave a mark for years to come. If you haven't read it already, be sure to pick up *The Lords of Misrule* at a bookstore near you.

### Close Call

How suddenly she roused my ardor,  
That woman with wide-open car door  
Who, with a certain languid Sapphic  
Grace into brisk rush-hour traffic  
Stepped casually. I tromped the break.  
Her lips shaped softly, "My mistake."  
Then for a moment as I glided  
By, our glances coincided  
And I drove off, whole rib cage filled  
With joy at having not quite killed.

## Talk About Pittsburgh 2007 & Meet Sigma Members!

Want to know a great way to keep in touch AND meet other people from different regions? Well besides going to the annual conference, you can always talk with other Sigma Tau Delta members at the Bulletin

Board at <http://www.english.org/cgi-bin/yabb/YaBB.cgi>!

It's a forum for every member of Sigma Tau Delta to join, and right now there is a post started about the

upcoming convention. In talking to other SRs and ASRs, an idea of a Poetry Slam competition has come up, and we want to know what you think of the idea! You can go to the Bulletin Board to view the

thread and join in on the discussion!

## Exuding Fun In Pittsburgh Ania Saj, Alpha Eta

### Sigma, Westfield State College

On March 28th, ten Westfield State College Sigma Tau Delta members, along with our chapter sponsor Glen Brewster, packed into a college van and drove south for countless hours with many pit stops along the way. We arrived to meet with the eleventh member of our chapter, Keith Leonard, and were prepared to greet WSC Professor Beth Starr after her not quite as long plane trip. The theme of this year's conference, confluence, was clearly being well represented at the Pittsburgh Hilton from March 29th to 31st, with numerous chapters from coast to coast coming together. Because it was my first conference, I was probably more surprised than the veteran conference attendees to see so many fellow English majors from across the continent gathered together in one place.

First and foremost, I must brief readers on the academic highlights. Featured speakers at the conference were David Rakoff, Jim Daniels, and Sharon Olds. The students from Westfield State reading their original creative work included Keith Leonard, Julie Oliver,

Jenna Putnam, and Jacklyn Hart. Those presenting critical papers were Samantha Boulay, Robert Hoey, Shawna Meehan, Julie Oliver, Ania Saj, and Travis Searles. The literature being written about was varied across genres and focus, as were the critical papers being presented, and, of course, the same goes for the creative work that was crafted by WSC students. Most people would agree that hearing critical papers written about a text which one is familiar with is more attention-grabbing, and keeping, than one that is unfamiliar to the listener, but I was surprised to hear a handful of papers about literature unfamiliar to me that actually sparked my interest in the text being written about.

The night of bad poetry and dry t-shirts provided us English majors with a wealth of laughs at others' intended expenses. That same evening, Ashlee Hazeltine's speech for Eastern Region rep effectively showcased her ability to "exude fun," which landed her in the desired position. The culmination of the conference, the awards banquet, was a memorable night,

both seeing how vast and far-reaching Sigma Tau Delta chapters are, looking around the room filled with lovers of English, and also witnessing Westfield State College's sponsor, Glen Brewster, full of pride at being named the Eastern Region's Outstanding Sponsor.

During our stay in the city, we also played the role of tourists, exploring the city during the day and at night. After walking across one of the many bridges found in Pittsburgh, we explored the Andy Warhol museum, which proved to be a worthwhile experience. His art is as unique as his life was, following a true "rags-to-riches" story, and the most memorable displays, in my opinion, were the punching bags with Jesus' face silk-screened onto them with words like "judge" scrawled across, and the interactive display that one could experience called "silver clouds" which consisted of silver balloons being blown about by multiple fans situated at different angles in a room painted bright white.  
*(Continued on page 7)*



**"The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them."**

**- Mark Twain**

## Trying To Get Published Donald Dilliplane, Eastern ASR

English majors and even just writers in general are often going to wonder how to get something published. The closer each student gets to graduation, the more anxiety takes a hold and the fear of never really understanding where or how to look.

Originally, you would have to hire a literary agent to submit manuscripts to publishing companies. The difficulty is that a literary agent can be expensive. They usually cost ten to twenty percent of the proceeds for the manuscripts that they negotiated into publication. Most well known publishing companies do not accept submissions if without an agent. Unfortunately, although literary agents can specialize and represent all sorts of writing, including topical non-fiction, science fiction, children's books, etc., they are almost none who represent short stories or poetry. Keep in mind, as well, that only in California are there state requirements to be an agent, where it is the law they only get a 10% cut.

The plus side to finding an agent is that he or she will know the market well and be able to help you with

career advice, contracts, and practices. If you ever do look for a literary agent, beware of scam agents. Important things to note are that a legitimate agent will not demand any other fees than the cut, nothing like reading fees or put clients' works in a vanity press or subsidy press.

These days, however, a literary agent is not entirely necessary. People self-publish, there are academic journals, and self-publishing companies that require no agent to accept manuscripts. There are certain websites, specifically [www.cafepress.com](http://www.cafepress.com), where you can design a cover for a book and sell it, among other things such as design T-shirts. There are also websites like [www.authorhouse.com](http://www.authorhouse.com) that help with the publishing process, but of course you have to pay them to be published. Self-publishing cuts out the middle man or third party, making it the process less complex but more work. Although still not the most popular way to get published, it is growing in popularity because of the distrust and dislike for mainstream publishing companies

and literary agents.

Publications in academic journals are research and papers on specific topics that are to be peer reviewed. Often articles in these journals aren't really meant or aimed at large audiences, rather, they are aimed at a small, specific group of people who research in the field themselves, looking for original work and discovery to help them in their own research. Most of your professors are involved in these, but they do not get paid for being published in them.

If you're looking to publish poetry or short stories, you should look for magazines and other internet sources that like to publish these things, and you can do this research easily and on your own. If, however, you're looking to publish something larger, you may be best off getting a literary agent to help you with all the legal and contract aspects of getting published. Self publication, however, if you're up for it, is probably easier and less complicated, but be prepared to do your own promotion!



**"Books let us into  
their souls and lay  
open to us the  
secrets of our  
own."**

**- William Hazlitt**

## Saying Goodbye To The 2006-2007 SR

Keith Leonard, 06-07 Eastern SR

It's usually customary for the out-going Student Representative to write a short departing message in the Spring newsletter, yet before doing that I'd like to take a second to give your new Student Representative a shout out of sorts to help you all get acquainted.

Ashlee and I are from the same school and have been in acquaintance for some time. Within our school community she is highly regarded and very active within our local chapter of Sigma Tau Delta. Ashlee exudes fun, she is personable, and as you have probably noticed from just looking at this newsletter, Ashlee is also a wiz on the computer (she created the template for this newsletter from scratch). To put it simply, I am confident Ashlee will do a great job for the society in her tenure as Student Representative.

This last year has been an incredible learning experience I am not soon to forget. Seeing first-hand the inner workings of the society has been fascinating and has given me complete confidence that Sigma Tau Delta

will continue to flourish under its responsible guidance and growing student participation. For any students reading this short letter, let it be known that the job of Student Representative (and for that matter, Associate Student Representative and Student Advisor) is a wholly enjoyable experience and should be considered by all those eligible. Seriously.

So now for the goodbyes. I would like to say a warm thank you to the members of the national board who do such a wonderful service for the students. I would like to also thank all the other Student Representatives from across the State with whom I have had (and will have) the distinct pleasure of their friendship. In that vein too I would like to thank Student Advisors Lynzie Biggs and Ryan Fletcher whom were always counted upon for a helping hand, and whom, more importantly, gave that help. Lastly, I'd like to thank Dr. Glen Brewster, Dr. Elizabeth Starr (my own chapter sponsors), as well as the Westfield State

College chapter of Sigma Tau Delta without whom my wonderful experience of Sigma Tau Delta would not have been possible.

On a last note, USE ASHLEE. I know that's a strange thing to read, but in all seriousness—USE HER. Her role as Student Representative is the perfect conduit for all your questions and concerns. She has plenty of support to do her job well, and even without that support I know she would succeed stupendously. Sigma Tau Delta is set-up in such a way that your experience should be the best possible. Yet, this enjoyment is contingent your participation first. So enjoy the year and I'll see you at the Spring convention!



**"How many a man has dated a new era in his life from the reading of a book."**

**- Henry David Thoreau**



**"The love of learning, the sequestered nooks, And all the sweet serenity of books."**

**- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

## Exuding Fun In Pittsburgh (Continued)

*(Continued from Page 4)* We were also fortunate enough to catch a view of the city from above on Mt. Washington, which we reached using the Monongahela Incline.

Aside from the rarities like Andy Warhol's exhibits and incredible city views, we also found food in unique forms along the way. At a local pizza joint while on Mt. Washington, Westfield State College Assistant Professor Beth Starr ordered a pierogi pizza, something I'd never had outside of Pittsburgh... yet. My own experience ordering Pittsburgh's unique

food came at Primanti Brothers, located in Market Square. I ordered a steak salad and was asked if I'd like fries with it, so I replied with a surprised "yes," and my salad was brought to me with a mound of French fries atop it. This was the salad version of the "Pittsburger," which comes with fries inside, as a typical lettuce, tomato, onion setup would. After a long day of salads topped with French fries and attention-requiring readings, Pittsburgh granted its visitors an enjoyable nightlife. The

local bars introduced us to residents who don't shy away from newcomers.

Our five-day stay gave us only sunshine and temperate weather, until the day of departure, which was conveniently filled with dark rain clouds.

## Get Money From Sigma Tau Delta!

Did we grab your attention yet? Everyone knows that money makes the world go around, and Sigma Tau Delta knows this as well! This is why you should go to the website at <http://english.org/scholarships.shtml> and check out all the different scholarships that you can apply for! Many of the scholarships went to people from the Eastern region at the 2007 Pittsburgh Convention, so there is no reason why that couldn't be you! The

deadlines for most of the scholarships is October 30, so by the time the next newsletter comes out, you could be on your way to winning a scholarship!

There are six scholarships that you can apply for, all of which have more information on them on the website. But the scholarships you can apply for are as follows:

**E. Nelson James Junior Scholarship**

**Elva Bell McLin Senior Scholarship**

**Edwin L. Stockton, Jr. Graduate Scholarship**

**Henry Regnery Endowed Scholarship**

**Sigma Tau Delta Scholarship**

**Sigma Tau Delta Study Abroad Scholarships**

So check out the website and go apply! Who knows, you just might get some money to help pay off those college bills!

## Regent Greetings Sarah Dangelantonio, Eastern Regent

Spring has finally taken up residence in New England and with the arrival of sunshine and the melting of the snow, I took a walk up the hill from my home to the "Old Burying Ground" behind the Meeting House in Jaffrey Center, NH. I visit once or twice a year to walk between the headstones, look at the epitaphs and visit with Willa Cather. Yes, the novelist so associated with the Midwest is buried here, in a small town in rural New Hampshire. From 1917 until 1940 she spent the fall months at the Shattuck Inn in Jaffrey, and wrote much of *My Antonia* here, her gravesite isn't a surprise to those who know her history.

I freely admit to a sentimental fondness for the literary pilgrimage, though I usually go on a whim, with little planning. My first adult pilgrimage came in 1984 when I was in grad school at Saint Louis University. One of my fellow English TA's came up to me in the cafeteria and murmured "You know Howard Nemerov teaches at Wash U." Actually I didn't know this and told him so. He asked if I wanted to go try to find the poet laureate and have him sign a book for us -- Jerry whispered, "He's supposed to walk

around campus in jeans and a sweat shirt; I'll bet we can find him."

St. Louis had already been a catalyst for literary connections -- I had accidentally stumbled across one of Tennessee Williams' old homes and had visited Art Hill and the museum in Forest Park (Laura mentions it in *The Glass Menagerie*) and a chance opportunity had taken me and another TA to an interesting meeting up in Hannibal, Missouri to talk with folks at the Twain place about an upcoming celebration—it was little bit kitschy what with the "Becky Thatcher House" and the "Tom Sawyer fence," but it was Hannibal. That same year the SLU annual library award brought me face to face with Eudora Welty and gave me the gift of hearing her read "How I Lived at the P.O."

Jerry and I found another friend and the three of us set out -- with a short stop at fabulous "Left Bank Books" to purchase copies of Nemerov's poetry. We knew we would find Nemerov. Upon arriving on Wash U's campus, we decided to head out towards the English

department and see what we could find -- Jerry had checked ahead and found out Prof. Nemerov was on campus -- somewhere. It was a glorious spring day -- early bulbs were blooming, the sun was shining and we were on a mission. We knew we'd find him -- and we did. He was walking across a quad, wearing a baby blue zip front hoodie and tattered blue jeans. He was kind and generous with his time -- giving us a chance to say hello, tell him we were up at SLU and asking for his signature. (*Continued On Page 9*)



**"To read a book for the first time is to make an acquaintance with a new friend; to read it for a second time is to meet an old one. "**

**- Chinese Saying**



## Regent Greetings *(Continued)* Sarah Dangelantonio, ER

*(Continued from Page 8)* Since then, I've made other pilgrimages. In 1986 I traveled U.S. Highway #78 across Georgia and Mississippi to visit William Faulkner's home, Rowan Oak. My arrival (after a brief stop in Tupelo to give a nod to Elvis) coincided with the opening of a new bookstore on the central Square in Oxford (Square Books). I visited Rowan Oak – seeing Faulkner's outline for *A Fable* written on the walls of his study was surreal -- then went looking for his grave site. At the cemetery, there was no historical marker and after wandered around for quite a while, a gardener pointed me in the right direction. In 1994 I took a group of American Lit students to visit Concord, MA so we could go to Author's Ridge at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery and Walden Pond. We made a side trip to Hawthorne's "old Manse" --my most lasting memories are the tromp l'oil wall

paper and the tiny, delicate writing desk he used when he wrote *Mosses from an Old Manse*. At Walden Pond we wandered the woods and walked towards the pond at dusk -- a single man was standing in the pond, in waders, fly fishing. No one else was there; the silence was, truly, deafening.

As I look back over these travels, I realize that they all occurred in the spring -- there must be something about Spring that inspires pilgrimage, pointed out to us most notably by Chaucer: *Whan that Aprill with his shoures soote/ The droghte of March has perced to the roote . . . Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages*. Whether it's the time of year, the need to connect a favorite writer to his or her historical reality, the thrill of the hunt, whatever, there is something about visiting these places that is **necessary**. For me, I think it ties in with a belief of Thomas Hardy's about how a particular physical location becomes imbued with something like the essence of the people who were at that spot --

a sense of place is connected with a sense of identity, and for someone who loves the written word and respects and admires the write, nothing quite compares with arriving at the pilgrimage destination, at the **place**.

This spring, whether you find yourself in Pittsfield, Massachusetts (near Melville's Greylock and Arrowhead) or in Salem, near Hawthorne's House of the Seven Gables, or in Hartford CT, near Twain's riverboat-esque mansion, or somewhere else, take a look around and see what sort of literary connections you can find. Take a walk, read a few lines from a poem or a novel or a Nobel Prize acceptance speech. Soak in the history and revel in the sense of connection. And, if you have a chance, email me with your favorite local literary pilgrimage so we can share these special places with others whose lives take pleasure from such moments. I'll be waiting.

[dangelst@fpc.edu](mailto:dangelst@fpc.edu)



### Eastern Region Officers

#### Student Representative

Ashlee Hazeltine  
Westfield State College  
ahazeltine0165@wsc.ma.edu

#### Associate Student Representative

Donald Dilliplane  
Alvernia College  
donalddoland@gmail.com

#### Eastern Regent

Sarah Dangelantonio  
Franklin Pierce University  
dangelst@fpc.edu

#### Website!

www.english.org

## 2007 Pittsburgh Convention Eastern Region Award Winners

#### E. Nelson James Junior Scholarship:

Anastasia Wypasek (\$2500)  
Saint Francis University (Pi Chi)

#### Elva Bell McLin Senior Scholarship:

Rianna Lee Sing, Runner-Up (\$1000)  
Coppin State University (Phi Lambda)

#### Regent's Scholarships - Eastern

Janine Surmick (\$1000)  
Alvernia College (Kappa Pi)

#### P.C. Sommerville Teaching Award

Lori Kemp (\$200)  
Alvernia College (Kappa Pi)

#### Scholarly Paper Award - Undergraduate

Cherylynn Silvia (\$150)  
Bridgewater State College (Alpha Lota Mu)

#### Scholarship Application Essay Award

Michael Eaton (\$100)  
University of Pittsburgh, Greensburg  
(Alpha Alpha Delta)

#### Elizabeth Holtze Creative Nonfiction Award (Rectangle Award)

Jillian Bateman (\$300)  
Ithica College (Omega Psi)

#### Frederic Fadner Critical Essay Award (Rectangle Award)

Jenna Dodenhoff (\$300)  
The College of New Jersey (Alpha Epsilon Alpha)

#### Herbert L. Hughes Short Story Award (Rectangle Award)

Adrienne Jackson-Buckner (\$300)  
SUNY College at Oneonta (Mu Omega)

#### Judson Q. Owen Award for Best Piece Overall (Rectangle Award)

Adrienne Jackson-Buckner (Plaque)  
SUNY College at Oneonta (Mu Omega)

#### Isabel Sparks Presidents Awards

Original Fiction Awards - 3rd Place  
Rick Foster (\$75)  
Clarion University (Rho Iota)

#### Elaine W. Hughes Outstanding Sponsor Award

Glen Brewster, Regional Sponsor  
(Plaque)  
Westfield State College (Alpha Eta Sigma)

#### Outstanding Chapter Award

Mu Omicron (\$350)  
University of Scranton

#### Chapter Website Awards - 2nd Place

University of Scranton (Mu Omicron)

#### Individual Website Awards - 1st Place

Joseph Dugan (\$150)  
Cedarville University (Alpha Kappa Delta)

#### Individual Website Awards - 2nd Place

Christine Hartigan (\$100)  
The College of New Jersey (Alpha Epsilon Alpha)