



Sigma Kappa Delta

THE NATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY FOR TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

NEWS

Fall 2005

2005 National Conference

Sigma Kappa Delta was formed under the auspices of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society for four-year colleges and universities. Each year, Sigma Kappa Delta members and sponsors are invited to join Sigma Tau Delta at their international conference. The conference provides a wonderful opportunity for two-year college students to travel, network with four-year students and faculty, hear renowned speakers, participate in panel discussions, experience other cultures, and develop outside the classroom.

The 2005 ΣΤΔ/ΣΚΔ Conference was held at the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City, MO, on March 17 – 20. Students enjoyed the atmosphere of this Hallmark-owned conference center which houses a mall, various restaurants, a theatre, and interactive activities. As one of the nation's largest St. Patrick's Day parades passed the hotel, ΣΚΔ students and

sponsors cheered and laughed, enjoying the outrageous Irish regalia. Just across the road stands the stately Union Station, newly renovated yet still bearing the bullet holes from Pretty Boy Floyd's massacre. Let us not forget the lovely fountains that grace the city; gorgeous water flows from various types of fountains, lending the city a special ambience. Kansas City is, indeed, a lively city which provided an outstanding setting for the conference.

ΣΚΔ members paneled a discussion on "Unheard Voices at the Two-Year College." Sitting on this panel were Kris Reisz from Theta Beta Chapter, Calhoun Community College; and Jessica Reeves, Epsilon Alpha Chapter, Northeast Alabama Community College.

Conference attendees heard the melodious voice of Jamaica Kincaid as she read from *Mr. Potter* and *Among Flowers*. Peter Hessler, travel author, mesmerized his audience with vivid

tales of his experiences in China as he read from *River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze*, and Henri Cole's quiet poetic voice stilled the audience as he read from his latest collection, *Middle Earth*. After each of these readings, students eagerly waited in line to meet the authors and have books signed.

The ΣΚΔ awards luncheon was held at Streetcar Named Desire, a cozy restaurant near the hotel. The following awards were presented at the luncheon:

Literary Journal Award

The Muse

Theta Beta Chapter - Calhoun Community College

Academic and Service Awards

Sarah Crumble

Rho Beta Chapter - Fayetteville Technical Community College

Jessica Reeves

Epsilon Alpha Chapter - Northeast Alabama Community College

Alan Michael Cantrell

Phi Alpha Chapter - Bevill State Community College

Amanda Eldridge

Iota Beta Chapter - Blinn College, Bryan Campus

Karen Tucker

Phi Alpha Chapter - Bevill State Community College



Joan Reeves, National President; Sasha Ilic, Pi Alpha Chapter, Best Conference Paper winner; and Dr. Shelia Byrd, Executive Director.



2005 SKD Convention Delegation

Continued on next page

Greetings from the National President

Greetings to Sigma Kappa Delta Sponsors.

Great opportunities await us as we plan a new year. Imagine the excitement and encouragement your students can obtain from membership in Sigma Kappa Delta. The opportunities for these students continue to grow. If your students are interested in publishing, then $\Sigma\text{K}\Delta$ is just the place for them. They can submit essays, poems, or short stories and compete against other $\Sigma\text{K}\Delta$ members. Students with winning entries are not only published in the national literary magazine *Hedera helix* but are also awarded monetary prizes. If your students are looking for scholarship opportunities, then $\Sigma\text{K}\Delta$ is just the place for them, as well. The national organization offers three Aca-

demical/Service Scholarships of \$350 each, and our sister organization Sigma Tau Delta, awards a \$500 transfer scholarship to a $\Sigma\text{K}\Delta$ member majoring in English. If your students enjoy travel, then $\Sigma\text{K}\Delta$ is just the place for them, too. Last March, the national Sigma Tau Delta/Sigma Kappa Delta conference was held in Kansas City, Missouri, and $\Sigma\text{K}\Delta$ attendance at this conference reached an all-time high. In March 2006, we will be in Portland, Oregon, and the $\Sigma\text{K}\Delta$ board is already making plans to ensure that the 2006 conference will be one of the best ever. Finally, if your students enjoy hearing acclaimed writers, then certainly $\Sigma\text{K}\Delta$ is the place for them to be. Either through local chapters sponsoring writers on campus or through the

national conference, students have the opportunity to hear such acclaimed writers as Jamaica Kincaid, Billy Collins, Pat Conroy, Sherman Alexie, or Ernest Gaines.

Let me encourage you as sponsors to mark your calendars and start the fundraisers early in the fall semester to ensure that your students have the opportunity to experience the scholarship, camaraderie, and recognition offered to active members of $\Sigma\text{K}\Delta$. As your president, I look forward to working with you during the next year and hope to see you and your students in Portland in March. If I can be of any assistance, do not hesitate to call on me.

Best wishes,
Joan Reeves
National President

2005 National Conference, cont.

Visit $\Sigma\text{K}\Delta$ Online at www.English2.org

Transfer Scholarship

Karen Tucker
Phi Alpha Chapter - Bevill State
Community College

Writing Contest

Josh Dendy - Poetry
Theta Beta Chapter - Calhoun Community
College

Craig D. Case - Short Story
Delta Alpha Chapter - Copiah-Lincoln
Community College

Evelyn Houston - Personal Narrative
Theta Beta Chapter - Calhoun Community
College

Karen Tucker - Literary Analysis
Phi Alpha Chapter - Bevill State
Community College

This conference was as memorable as the previous ones in Daytona Beach, FL, St. Louis, MO, Cincinnati, OH, Boise, ID, and Corpus Christie, TX. We look forward to heading west to Portland, OR, for the 2006 conference next March. See the $\Sigma\text{K}\Delta$ website for complete details.



Board members: Joan Reeves, President; Jill Chadwick, Secretary/Treasurer; Dr. Shelia H. Byrd, Executive Director; Crystal Starkey, Zeta Gamma Chapter Sponsor. Not pictured, Dr. Don Perkins, Alpha Chapter Sponsor.



Panel discussion presenters, Kris Reisz, Theta Beta Chapter, and Jessica Reeves, Epsilon Alpha Chapter.



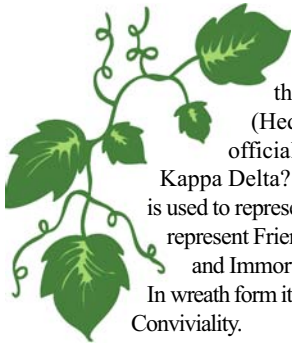
Seek the Green in Portland

Join us for the
Sigma Tau Delta/Sigma
Kappa Delta Convention
Portland, Oregon

Hilton Portland & Executive Tower
March 29 – April 2, 2006

We go seeking the green in Portland, a city known for green. Green is the color of rebirth, growth, money, envy, water, foliage, ivy. In all its shades, green reflects the world and our lives; green is the theme in Portland.

Keynote speaker will be U. S. Poet Laureate, Ted Kooser, author of 17 books, including Pulitzer Prize-Winning *Delights and Shadows*. Complete details of the convention may be found on the website at English2.org.



Did you know that English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) is the official symbol of Sigma Kappa Delta? Ivy, a popular symbol, is used to represent Memory. It can represent Friendship, Faithfulness, and Immortality (or Eternal Life). In wreath form it is a symbol for Conviviality.

The power of Ivy lies in its ability to cling and bind, making it a potent symbol of determination and strength to the Druids. Being evergreen in nature, Ivy represented the perennial aspects of the human psyche. The Celts associated Ivy with their Lunar Goddess, Arianrhod, and their ritual to this deity marked the opening of the portal to the Other World... or the Dark Side of the Moon. This door symbolized an entrance to the Realm of Faery and thus, Ivy was representative of the mysterious and the mystical. Ivy was symbolic of the journey of the soul and the spiral toward self. It encouraged assistance toward others in their search so that they, in turn, might offer assistance.

Ivy has been a symbol of eternal life in the pagan world and then came to represent new promise and eternal life in the Christian world.

Chapter Fundraising

One of the privileges of $\Sigma\text{K}\Delta$ membership is having the opportunity to attend special activities and events. College students will always be living on limited funds. $\Sigma\text{K}\Delta$ chapters are encouraged to hold fundraising events each year to raise money for group activities such as

- Attending National Conference
- Attending plays, movies, concerts, etc.
- Attending writers' conferences/seminars
- Having refreshments/door prizes, etc. at special meetings such as holiday meetings
- Purchasing materials for special $\Sigma\text{K}\Delta$ activities
- Touring museums or art shows

Chapters use local funds to offset or pay for the cost of such activities and events. For example, one chapter pays \$200 toward attending the national conference *for students who participate in their fundraising event each year*. If the fundraiser yields more than anticipated, the chapter may pay more toward the trip. This makes the trip more affordable to members.

Fundraising Ideas

- **Huge Yard Sale** (ask *everyone* to contribute gently used items)
- **Battle of the Bands** (keep it simple, but local bands love a chance to perform)
- **Sell Food on Campus** (set up a table and sell something appealing – be sure you charge enough to make money – in some communities, Domino's Pizza offers fundraising opportunities)
- **Sports Activity** (charge admission to see a volleyball, basketball, baseball game between two campus teams)
- **Hug-a-Gram** (Advertise a hug for a dollar (or two!). Have people buy a hug for a friend. After a member of your group gives the hug to the designated person, give them a small card with a message from the person who sent the hug.)
- **Pumpkin-decorating Contest** (Around Halloween, hold a pumpkin-decorating contest. Charge to enter and provide prizes for winners.)
- **Lemonade Stand** (Return to childhood - Make lemonade, post signs, and sell it on a hot day. You may sell some other goodies at the same time.)
- **Be Creative** (Find an activity that works for you and your chapter. Do it and profit.)

Some chapters find a simple fundraiser and do it several times throughout the year. Others hold only one big fundraiser each year.

*One of the chapter sponsors is usually in charge of the $\Sigma\text{K}\Delta$ account since our members come and go so often. The chapter treasurer works under the direction of that sponsor.



Executive Director's Corner

Sigma Kappa Delta is growing stronger each year. We now have 57 chapters in 25 states. Many chapters are growing steadily through the dedication and diligence of hardworking sponsors. I hope each sponsor stays in touch with us through our website: English2.org; by phone: (256) 306-2720; or by email: shb@calhoun.edu.

Last year Jan Anderson, Chapter Coordinator, sent informative e-mails to sponsors each week, and we plan to resume that in the fall. We want chapters to be able to share their successes in recruitment, fundraising, and fun activities. I encourage you to read these emails and send me your information to be included in these weekly emails. Also, I want to encourage you to attend our National Conference. This year, we will be going to Portland, Oregon. We have wonderful experiences each year, getting to know each other in educational as well as social settings. Most importantly is the benefit to our students. In my experience, students often thrive during these conferences.

In my tenure as Executive Director, I have seen many changes and some challenging situations. I am here to make your job as sponsor as easy as possible. I welcome your comments and suggestions. Please call or email me if you need help with SKD business.

Dr. Shelia Byrd
Executive Director

Call for Papers

The deadline for submitting entries to the national writing contest is November 30. Please make sure members submit a complete packet post-marked by that date. Categories are listed below, and complete guidelines may be found on the SKD website at www.English2.org. Awards will be made at the 2006 Conference in Portland, Oregon, and winning entries will be published in the 2006 national literary journal *Hedera helix* along with the 2005 winning entries.

Hedera helix literary prizes

Best short story - \$100

Best personal essay - \$100

Best poem - \$100

Best literary analysis - \$100

No research papers accepted

Also, begin planning now to enter your school's literary journal in the national literary journal competition and to compete for Chapter Service Awards. Again, complete guidelines are available on the website, www.English2.org. A \$100 prize goes to the winner in this category.

Sponsor Tips

5 L's For Sponsors

- **Lighten the Load** – Have co-sponsors, assigning specific duties to each one – for example, one works with the chapter treasurer to oversee collection of member fees and disbursement of funds, one helps the chapter president plan meetings.
- **Look Around** – Take advantage of local activities as ΣΚΔ outings – Plan a group trip to community festivals, writers' conferences, concerts, movies, plays, museums, etc. Let the students be your guide.
- **Lead the Way** – Promote ΣΚΔ member interaction by getting to know the members outside class and by planning group activities a few times a year.
- **Link Education** – Provide cultural and social activities – guest speakers, readings by ΣΚΔ or faculty members, trips, picnics – the sky is the limit – use your resources.
- **Loosen Up** – Gone are the days of stiff, formal, dreaded meetings – make meetings fun and interesting by varying chapter activities and including different people – as often as possible, let everyone participate – and, by all means, keep the business part at a minimum.

Meetings Matter

Simple things work wonders sometimes.
Try some of these ideas to liven up your meetings.

- Have members come prepared to suggest a favorite movie or CD to the group. This encourages members to watch or listen to new movies and music. What better recommendation than from a peer? (Sponsors find some great new entertainment this way, too.)
- Have an ΣΚΔ member or a popular faculty member read a short writing or poem. Discuss it briefly.
- Have simple refreshments once or twice a year.
- Use your ΣΚΔ talent. If you have members who sing, act, or have some other talent, ask them to share it during a meeting.
- Play a short game. Use your imagination or steal an idea. Tossing out humorous questions related to English is fun. You can even give them some pretty tough questions and ask group members to come up with acceptable answers. Winners could receive a small prize.
- Have door prizes.
- Encourage members to buy ΣΚΔ t-shirts and wear them. This provides a sense of pride and promotes a bond among members.
- During December, have members bring treats for a holiday get together. Ask trivia questions, and give prizes such as bookmarks, suckers, pens, or whatever you can come up with.
- Share your ideas with us so we can share them with ΣΚΔers across the country.

