

**Sigma Tau Delta
Annual Report**

Alpha Alpha Upsilon Chapter

Fall 2000 - Spring 2001

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Abstract

The following is an annual report of the Alpha Alpha Upsilon chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society. Each spring, every chapter is required to produce an end-of-year report and send it to the National Headquarters. The purpose of this report is to describe the activities, fundraisers, and service projects the chapter has been involved with throughout the year. This document contains a detailed description of these activities and several photographs that serve as illustrations. This report also contains the chapter's proposed plans for the next year.

Introduction to the Alpha Alpha Upsilon Chapter

The Alpha Alpha Upsilon chapter of Sigma Tau Delta was established at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington in 1994. Students are invited to join the society if they have earned a 3.0 GPA in their English classes as well as a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Currently, we have about 47 members.

Throughout the years, the chapter has experienced different leaders and different goals. For several years, this organization has been dormant. Our goal this year was to become an active organization and one that had a good reputation on campus. Under the leadership of our staff advisor, Dr. Sue Richardson, we have flourished.

One way that we accomplished our goal to be more visible, was to merge with the Chapter One English Club. In the Fall 2000 semester, the Alpha Alpha Upsilon chapter of Sigma Tau Delta and Chapter One became sister organizations. One practical reason for this merger is that both groups have similar interests. Sigma Tau Delta and Chapter One have such similar purposes as educating and fostering a love of the English language in others. Another reason we joined was a monetary consideration, as it was beneficial to combine funds. Both organizations met every other week on a staggered schedule. One week Chapter One would meet, and the next Sigma Tau Delta would convene. This schedule allowed members to be active in both groups.

This year, our name was spread on campus because five of our members received scholarships. Of the six recipients of the Wentworth Scholarship, all but one was a member of our chapter. This is a competitive scholarship that grants money to students that would like to study abroad. These recipients are Dawson Jackson, Rebecca Heine, Meredith Ledwell, Sara Lou, and Matt Schraum.

We have achieved a great deal this year and are still working on getting the other members of the chapter involved as the officers are. We will continue our effort next year with the same level of enthusiasm and eagerness.

Chapter Leadership



Figure 1. Chapter advisor posing with chapter officers. (Dr. Sue Richardson, Rosalie Cost, Erik Privette, Hugh Fisher, and Kate Speer)

On September 14, 2000, the Alpha Alpha Upsilon Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta held elections for the current 2000 - 2001 chapter officer positions. Our advisor, Dr. Sue Richardson, ran the election. The results were as follows:

<i>President:</i>	Dawson Jackson
<i>Vice President:</i>	Kate Speer
<i>Secretary:</i>	Erik Privette
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Rosalie Cost
<i>Publicity:</i>	Hugh Fisher
<i>Historian:</i>	Mai Hamrik

On October 14, 2000, committees were assigned to the officers. Our hope was that by joining one of these committees, the other members would have a greater opportunity to become involved. The committee chairs were as follows:

<i>Calendar Committee:</i>	Dawson Jackson
<i>Charity Committee:</i>	Kate Speer
<i>Fundraising Committee:</i>	Rosalie Cost
<i>Induction Planning Committee:</i>	Mai Hamrick
<i>Publicity Committee:</i>	Hugh Fisher
<i>Social Activities Committee:</i>	Erik Privette

During the Spring 2001 semester, there were a few changes in the leadership positions. Kate Speer became President, Hugh Fisher became Vice - President (while remaining in charge of publicity), and Billy Cruz became Historian. The officers for the semester became:

President: Kate Speer
Vice - President: Hugh Fisher
Secretary: Erik Privette
Historian: Billy Cruz

Chapter Activities

Michaelmas Festival

The Michaelmas Festival took place on Saturday, September 23, 2000. This festival was a medieval celebration of the harvest season. Hugh McRae Park was the original location for this event to be held. Due to inclement weather, however, the location was moved to Bryant Auditorium inside of Morton Hall on the campus of UNCW. The festival involved juggling, Celtic stories, games, mimes, fortunetellers, food, and a raffle. Chapter One's advisor, Dr. Stef Richardson, became the fortuneteller for this event. She used tarot cards to read the participants fortunes. Donations were asked of those who had their fortune read. One student, a member of Chapter One, entertained the crowd with self-composed melodies that he performed on his guitar. Another professor in the English department, Professor Ele Byington, and some of Professor Carol Tallant's students, entertained the crowd by reading Celtic stories. There was also a performance of a Morality Play, written by Sigma Tau Delta's secretary, Erik Privette. Approximately 50 people attended this activity. We also raffled off a stuffed teddy bear that came with a box of Godiva chocolate, called Captain Cobweb. These raffle tickets were sold for one dollar each.

Faculty Appreciation Days

Sigma Tau Delta felt that there was a need to recognize the faculty of the English and Creative Writing departments. We instituted our first Faculty Appreciation Days on October 30, 2000 and October 31, 2000. We created ribbons that the faculty could wear on these days as a symbol of our appreciation for them. The chapter bought black and red ribbon, safety pins, and glitter to assemble them. During these two days chapter members were invited to do something special for a particular professor that had been helpful to them during their time at the university. Some suggestions included leaving a brief note of thanks, a polished apple, or leaving a voice mail message about how much they appreciated the professor. Another aspect of Faculty Appreciation Days involved chapter members bringing in snacks and refreshments for the

English and Creative Writing staff. These goodies were left in the departmental offices. We also purchased 100 pens with "Faculty Appreciation Days," the date, and our chapter name imprinted on them. These pens were also distributed to the professors. The goal was simply to let professors know how important they are to the students.

Presentation of Awards for Meritorious service

On October 13, 2000, the officers presented several awards to professors at a departmental meeting. Professors Newlin, Waxman, Rugoff, and Schweninger received certificates of meritorious service to Sigma Tau Delta. The chapter also recognized one professor in particular, Professor Dodson, for his instrumental role in establishing the Alpha Alpha Upsilon chapter on this campus. Dr. Dodson was presented with a Sigma Tau Delta medallion purchased by the chapter. It was a nice surprise for Dr. Dodson to be recognized in front of his staff members.



Figure 2. Dr. Dodson receiving an award for his assistance in establishing our chapter of Sigma Tau Delta on this campus.



Figure 3. Dr. Waxman receiving an award for her dedication to the chapter.

Bulletin Board

Sigma Tau Delta maintained a bulletin board in Morton Hall across from the English office. Current chapter events and information was displayed here. The board was changed and updated weekly by one of the officers, Hugh Fisher.

Mail Serve

On September 22, 2000, Dr. Sue Richardson created a mail serve that allowed us to communicate with one another much more easily. We can now send a mass email to every chapter member quickly with the single click of a button.

Open Meeting

On October 24, 2000, we had an open meeting for all members. We had a disappointing turnout, as only four people attended this meeting. We hope to see many more at the next one.

Preparing for Graduate and Professional Schools Presentation

On November 9, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. in Morton Hall, Thom Rakes and Karen Thompson presented a 45-minute program on preparing mentally and scholastically for graduate and professional school. The majority of attendants were English majors, so English graduate programs became a large part of the discussion. Two students were asked to speak about their recent experience on taking the GRE. Other professors in the English department (Drs. Ellerby, Walker, Waxman, Stef Richardson and Sue Richardson) participated in a round table style discussion on the subject. Faculty members offered practical advice on graduate school, studying for the GRE, and any other concerns that students had.

Holiday Party

Hugh Fisher hosted the Holiday Party at his home on December 6, 2000. We had two goals for this activity. One was to socialize with the members of our chapter that we do not see as often as we would hope. The second goal was to attain as many gifts for the Toys for Tots program as possible. We asked that each guest bring a toy donation or a children's book.

Kevin Gordon

On November 9, 2000, noted country singer and Nashville recording artist, Kevin Gordon appeared at the Hawks Nest on the UNCW campus. He is also an Iowa Poetry Writer's workshop graduate and a critically acclaimed troubadour. Gordon performed music, poetry, and held a question and answer period. The students received him extremely well. This event was also co-sponsored by the Creative Writing Graduate Association, The English Department, and Chapter One.



Figure 4. Kevin Gordon performing at the Hawks Nest on campus.

Chili Cook-Off

The chapter held a chili cook-off on January 25, 2001, at the Treasurer's home. Members either brought a batch of homemade chili or another dish to share. Our intent was to relax and socialize in a non-academic surrounding, thereby strengthening our relationships with one another. No awards were given, but all participants left satisfied and full. This activity also turned out to be extremely beneficial, since it allowed us to prepare for our valentine fundraiser.

Initiation Ceremony

The induction of new members into the Alpha Alpha Upsilon chapter of Sigma Tau Delta took place on November 30, 2000. This semi-formal ceremony was held at the St. Andrews Apartment's clubhouse. We inducted seventeen students into the chapter. We asked all members to attend if possible, and to bring with them a hors d'oeuvres side dish. This was a lovely induction ceremony and we had a fascinating guest speaker. Professor Newlin talked with us about his own findings and the large controversy surrounding the writer Hamlin Garland.



Figure 5. Professor Newlin discussing Hamlin Garland at the induction ceremony.



Figure 6. Initiates pledging their dedication to the Sigma Tau Delta ideals during the induction ceremony.

Chapter Service Events

Toys for Tots

We set up a box across from the English office in Morton Hall to collect donations for the Toys for Tots program. We advertised to the school at large and asked members, especially, to assist us in collecting toys. We gathered three large bags of toys, with an approximate value of \$250 - 300.

Halloween Carnival

The Halloween Carnival is an event that occurs annually on the UNCW campus. This year it occurred on October 24, 2000. Children

from the community come and participate in various activities organized by various groups and clubs on campus. Our activity was a plinko board created by the chapter, an idea borrowed from the Price is Right show. The children received prizes of candy. This turned out to be a favorite among the children, as we had some returning up to eight times. We asked members to sign up for time slots to work at this event. This was a fun activity that provided amusement for all participants.

Chapter Fundraisers

Valentines Sale

We capitalized on the day of love by selling Valentine cards in Morton Hall. We allowed the buyers to demonstrate their creativity by giving them the opportunity to decorate the valentine by using an assortment of glitter, markers, stickers, and stamps. We had different prices, ranging from a quarter to \$3.50, for various types of cards. The more expensive ones consisted of student-written love poems that could be attached to the heart shaped cards. We even had a poet on the spot that would create a unique piece upon request. In addition to selling cards, we also had small bags of assorted candy that could be purchased for a dollar. This fundraiser went extremely well.

Table 1. Total profits from chapter fundraisers.

Event	Profit
Michaelmas Festival	\$60.00
Valentines' Sale	\$150.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$210.00</i>

Proposed Plans for Next Year

Proposed Activities

Our biggest goal for next year is to increase the attendance at our events. We would really love to see more members become actively involved in chapter events. We are planning to repeat as many of the activities from this past year as possible. We are already thinking about how to make the big ones, such as the Michaelmas Festival, even better.

We decided that we absolutely would not hire Kevin Gordon again. Kevin Gordon turned out to be much more costly than we had anticipated. He was an excellent performer, but with our limited budget, we can^{not} afford to hire him again.

Proposed Fundraising Activities

We plan to do more fundraising next year than we did this past one. We made good profits off of the Michaelmas Festival and the Valentines Sale, so we definitely plan to repeat these. Next time, however, we will be more prepared. For the Valentines Sale, we now know what kinds of poems sold the best and what kind of materials we need to make the valentines. One new idea for next year is to hold a yard sale. The chapter members would donate their old stuff to be sold at the Yard Sale. The profit we make from it will go to the chapter funds.

Proposed Service Activities

We would like to do more service activities than we have in the past. We have discussed ideas such as habitat for Humanity and reading books to children. We all enjoyed the Halloween Carnival and would like to participate in it next year. We plan to use our popular plinko board again. Also, since the Toys for Tots service project was extremely easy and since we accumulated such a large number of toys, we will also do this again.