

Executive Director's Report, September 2012

Many years ago, when I was just beginning my work with Sigma Tau Delta, a then-Board-member told me a story about an enthusiastic faculty member eager to serve well as Sponsor to her newly-chartered $\Sigma\tau\Delta$ chapter. She approached him with the question, "What should I do?" The Board member asked her, "What is it you do now?" "Well, I'm a teacher," she responded excitedly, "who loves to teach, loves my students, and really wants to share my love of literature with my students."

Much to her surprise, the Board member responded simply, "Then continue doing what you're obviously already doing well, and you'll have a great chapter and be a great Sponsor."

For 89 years Sigma Tau Delta has been doing well what we love to do: building structures that allow us to share, abundantly, the fruits of our labors, and cultivating, from relatively small seeds, one of the largest honor societies in our country.

This year, as we gather for our fall Board meeting, we do so with a Society larger, financially stronger, and programmatically more diverse than ever before. To get here we have increased significantly what we give back, and the more we have given, the more we have grown. Our scholarships and awards are greater now in number and amounts provided. In the last 5 years we have doubled convention attendance. We revised and expanded, redesigned and rethought, the various faces we present electronically to our sundry communities. We made the commitment to provide staff sufficient to support committee and other Board work. And as I read the Board emails, notes, and reports I get in great abundance, it is clear that most of us—officers, Regents, SAs, SRs and ASRs, faculty and students and staff—are doing well what we love to do.

To give some substance to these statements, let me provide some mid-year statistics. Consider the following:

From July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012, we added 9,389 new members (the previous year at this time we were at 9,255). During this period we issued 13 charters (Appendix A), and reactivated 13 chapters (Appendix B); currently we have 822 chapters on the active list.

Early in September we'll send "deactivation" letters to 14 chapters not submitting new members for two full years and not responding to correspondence (Appendix C). We also will send letters to 53 semi-active chapters (those not submitting new member information during the past year) (Appendix D). Generally the majority of those respond, with new-member names, early in the fall term.

Those are positive numbers! And the plusses (for all of us in English) actually do mean more than the minuses. They reflect in part the active work of many people on the Board, in the chapters, and on the Central Office staff.

That Central Office (CO) staff, comprised of Deb Seyler, Karen Larsen, Elfi Gabriel, and Josh Wilkin, and our “deployed” staff, Lauren Brandeberry and Dave Wendelin, churned out enormous amounts of work during the summer months, working with amazing zeal and dedication. Each has specific job functions but, as in any small office, their work often engages them in projects far outside their job descriptions. Redesigning ΣΤΔ and NEHS websites, preparing fall documents, contacting scholarship winners, working with various committees, surviving the annual audit and preparing the complex budget for next year, dealing with a 4-month long (unsuccessful) attempt to classify Lauren’s position so that it is compatible with other NIU positions we already have in place, and beginning the long, difficult process of rewriting the request, were among the summer projects.

Working with Gloria on 2013 Convention materials and plans, working with the Portland hotel, laying groundwork for the 2014 Savannah Convention, and exploring options for the 2015 site, were among other projects undertaken. The monthly (sans summer) “Snippets” the Board and affiliates receive at the start of each month carried further details and updates and, I trust, gave some sense of how active an organization—and a Central Office—we are.

Our Treasurer’s Report indicates that, economically, we are improving steadily. In most budgeted areas we are using our monies judiciously, allocating them for carefully developed and well-considered areas of member support and Society operations.

We are at an exciting place with Sigma Tau Delta and our high school outreach program, NEHS (whose equally-positive developments are contained in Dave Wendelin’s report). Both groups are prospering; both are filled with the energy of new possibilities. As we move into this new academic year—our 89th—I am enthusiastic about our plans for the year ahead. We all can be proud that we continue to grow, but prouder still that we have developed into an organization that, through the dedicated work of so many individuals, increasingly interacts with the wider academic community, increasingly provides greater services for its members, and increasingly prepares its members for leadership roles. Overall, it is clear we are doing well what we love to do!

With that in mind, I remind you to think where we’ve been and to imagine where we’re going!

William C. Johnson, Executive Director
September 14, 2012

NEW CHAPTERS (13)
July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012
APPENDIX A

Ashford University (Clinton, IA)
Bridgewater College (Bridgewater, VA)
Cazenovia College (Cazenovia, NY)
Endicott College (Beverly, MA)
Georgia Gwinnett College (Lawrenceville, GA)
Neumann University (Aston, PA)
Plaza College (Jackson Heights, NY)
Saint Joseph College (Hartford, CT)
University of Hawaii, West Oahu (Pearl City, HI)
University of New Hampshire (Durham, NH)
University of South Carolina Beaufort (Bluffton, SC)
University of Wisconsin-Superior (Superior, WI)
Wilson College (Chambersburg, PA)

REACTIVATED CHAPTERS (13)
July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012
APPENDIX B

Biola University (La Mirada, CA)
Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, PA)
CUNY, Lehman College (Bronx, NY, NY)
Indiana University East (Richmond, IN)
Mississippi Valley State University (Itta Bena, MS)
Oregon State University (Corvallis, OR)
Rust College (Holly Springs, MS)
Salem State University (Salem, MA)
University of Nevada, Las Vegas (Las Vegas, NV)
University of North Carolina, Ashville (Ashville, NC)
University of Utah (Salt Lake City, UT)
Virginia Union University (Richmond, VA)
Washington Adventist University (formerly Columbia Union College) (Takoma Park, MD)

TWO-YEAR INACTIVE CHAPTERS (14)
APPENDIX C

Central Connecticut State University (New Britain, CT)
Davis & Elkins College (Elkins, WV)
Fairleigh Dickinson Univ., Metropolitan Campus (Teaneck, NJ)
Grambling State University (Grambling, LA)
Lincoln University, Missouri (Jefferson City, MO)
Morehead State University (Morehead, KY)
Northern Arizona University (Flagstaff, AZ)
Saint Louis University (St. Louis, MO)
Southwest Minnesota State University, (Marshall, MN)
University of Arkansas Monticello, (Monticello, AR)
University of Houston (Houston, TX)
University of South Carolina Upstate (Spartanburg, SC)
University of Virginia (Charlottesville, VA)
Western New Mexico University (Silver City, NM)

ONE-YEAR INACTIVE CHAPTERS (53)
APPENDIX D

Adrian College, (Adrian, MI)
Allen University, (Columbia, SC)
Arcadia University, (Glenside, PA)
Benedict College, (Columbia, SC)
Bowling Green State University, (Bowling Green, OH)
Brewton-Parker College, (Mount Vernon, GA)
Brigham Young University, Hawaii, (Laie, HI)
Cedarville University, (Cedarville, OH)
Chaminade University of Honolulu, (Honolulu, HI)
College of Mount St. Joseph, (Cincinnati, OH)
Eastern New Mexico University, (Portales, NM)
Eastern Oregon University, (La Grande, OR)
Erskine College, (Due West, SC)
Fitchburg State College, (Fitchburg, MA)
Freed-Hardeman University, (Henderson, TN)
Hampton University, (Hampton, VA)
Lamar University, Beaumont, (Beaumont, TX)
Lane College, (Jackson, TN)
Lehigh University, (Bethlehem, PA)
Lindsey Wilson College, (Columbia, KY)
Louisiana College, (Pineville, LA)
Louisiana State University, (Baton Rouge, LA)
Mary Baldwin College, (Staunton, VA)
Mesa State College, (Grand Junction, CO)
Midland University, (Fremont, NE)
Miles College, (Fairfield, AL)
Newberry College, (Newberry, SC)
North Georgia College and State Univ., (Dahlonega, GA)
Northwestern State University, (Natchitoches, LA)
Peru State College, (Peru, NE)
Quincy University, (Quincy, IL)
Southwestern University, (Georgetown, TX)
St. Augustine's College, (Raleigh, NC)
St. Mary's College of Maryland, (St. Mary's City, MD)
Syracuse University, (Syracuse, NY)
Tusculum College, (Greeneville, TN)
University of Alaska, Fairbanks, (Fairbanks, AK)
University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, (Pine Bluff, AR)
University of Evansville, (Evansville, IN)
University of Louisiana, Lafayette, (Lafayette, LA)
University of Maine, (Orono, ME)
University of Minnesota, Morris, (Morris, MN)
University of Missouri, St. Louis, (St. Louis, MO)
University of Montenegro, (8100 Podgorica,)
University of North Carolina, Charlotte, (Charlotte, NC)
University of Northern Iowa, (Cedar Falls, IA)
University of Oklahoma, (Norman, OK)
University of St. Thomas, MN, (St. Paul, MN)
University of Texas, Pan American, (Edinburg, TX)
University of Texas, Tyler, (Tyler, TX)
University of the Southwest, (Hobbs, NM)
Virginia Wesleyan College, (Norfolk, VA)
Wabash College, (Crawfordsville, IN)