

## Featured Speakers

**Thursday, March 26, 8:00 p.m. - Alexandra Fuller**



photo credit: Peg Donner

**Workshop: Friday morning, March 27**

In her memoir, *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight: An African Childhood*, **Alexandra Fuller** describes growing up in Africa amidst political struggles, civil war, turmoil, and loss. In *Scribbling the Cat: Travels With an African Soldier*, Fuller returns to Africa and looks at war from another vantage point. Fuller's latest book, *The Legend of Colton H. Bryant*, tells the story of the life and death of a young man in another "war landscape," the oil fields of Wyoming.

**Friday, March 27, 8:00 p.m. - Michael Perry**



photo credit: J. Shimon and J. Lindemann

**Workshops: Friday afternoon, March 27**

**Saturday morning, March 28**

Humorist, writer, musician, **Michael Perry** is the author of the 2009 common reader, the bestselling memoir *Population 485: Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a Time*, essay collection *Off Main Street*, and, most recently, *Truck: A Love Story*. Perry has written for *Esquire* and *The New York Times Magazine*, and his essays have been heard on NPR. He has performed and produced two live recordings (*I Got It From the Cows* and *Never Stand Behind a Sneezing Cow*).

**Saturday, March 28, 11:00 a.m. - Neil Gaiman**



photo credit: Sophie Quatch

**Interview: Saturday afternoon, March 28**

A prolific writer, **Neil Gaiman** produces poetry, prose, comics, music lyrics, drama, journalism, and film. Some of his award-winning novels, graphic novels, and novellas include *Anansi Boys*, *The Wolves in the Walls*, *The Sandman*, *A Study in Emerald*, *Smoke and Mirrors*, *Coraline*, *American Gods*, *Stardust*, *Neverwhere*, and *Good Omens* (with Terry Pratchett). Gaiman wrote the script for the film *Beowulf*, and created and wrote the highly acclaimed DC Comics series, *Sandman*, described by Norman Mailer as "a comic strip for intellectuals."

## Common Reader

**Population 485: Meeting Your Neighbors One Siren at a Time**

Michael Perry's bestselling memoir has been selected as the 2009 common reader. The goal of the common reader is to celebrate the works of our featured speakers, to provide a common text for our own reading and enjoyment, and to establish a focus for chapter activities fostering literacy and the pleasures of reading in our local communities. **Sigma Tau Delta is offering \$150 for the best convention presentation (in any genre) featuring the common reader.**

## Leadership Workshop

Learn from ΣΤΔ's most successful chapters! The Student Representatives and Student Advisors are sponsoring "**Through the Looking Glass: Serving to Lead**" on Thursday morning, March 26. The workshop features two breakout sessions:

**Session 1:**  
Student Leadership  
Fundraising  
Publications  
Service

**Session 2:**  
Chapter Management  
Fundraising  
Publications  
Service

## Chapter Sponsor Workshop

The popularity of this workshop last year inspired us to offer it again this year! Discuss issues sponsors face in fostering chapter involvement, recruiting new members, developing chapter leaders, and much more. Due to the growth and popularity of this event in previous years, this workshop for chapter sponsors will again offer sponsors the option of attending specialized breakout sessions depending on their chapter's needs. The workshop will be led by some of Sigma Tau Delta's most successful chapter sponsors. Something for both seasoned and fresh sponsors!

## Hotel

All official convention activities will take place in the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis, 1300 Nicollet Mall. The Hyatt is located in the heart of downtown Minneapolis on Nicollet Mall featuring eight blocks of sidewalks and skyways linking shops, restaurants, galleries, entertainment, and other attractions.

### Room Rates

Sigma Tau Delta has reserved a block of rooms for the convention at a special group rate. The room rate is \$115.00 per night for single/double occupancy; \$125.00 for triple/quadruple occupancy (excluding taxes).

### Reservation Deadline

This special group rate is available until March 3, 2009. Important note — there is only a limited number of rooms available at the group rate and this block of rooms may fill before the March 3rd deadline. Please make your reservations early. If you have difficulties making your reservations, email [sigmatd@niu.edu](mailto:sigmatd@niu.edu).

### Reservations

To reserve a room, call **1-800-233-1234** and ask for the Sigma Tau Delta group discount.

## Metropolitan Minneapolis

Minneapolis may be "The City of Lakes," but it also has a very lively metropolitan life, the Mall of America (the largest enclosed mall and recreational space in the world), the renowned Guthrie Theater, the Walker Art Center, the Orpheum Theater, Orchestra Hall, and dynamic artistic, dramatic, and music scenes, many of which are within walking distance of our hotel. The Hyatt Regency Minneapolis is located on the popular Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis. Wide sidewalks flow on the Nicollet Mall in front of shops and dining establishments, with only taxis and buses allowed down the middle of the street. This is a pedestrian's delight, on the street or in the famous skyways.

You will be able to walk or catch a bus to dine on local and international cuisine from Irish pub food to Japanese sushi to Italian desserts to American burgers. You can easily visit independent bookstores, see a play at the Guthrie, view the art and media at the Walker, listen to jazz at the Dakota, experience the nightlife of the vibrant downtown areas, or even visit a park or lake or the Mississippi River.

For only \$1.50 (\$2 during rush hours), the Hiawatha light-rail line and the Metro Transit buses connect the Nicollet Mall to all parts of the Twin Cities, including the Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport and the Mall of America. Even better, the buses cost only 50 cents in the Downtown Zone.

For more information about things to do in Minneapolis, visit the Minneapolis Convention and Visitors Association website at

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

## ΣΤΔ Book Drive

This year, Sigma Tau Delta has partnered with Better World Books ([www.betterworldbooks.com](http://www.betterworldbooks.com)) to provide chapters with a convenient, cost-free way to participate in the national book drive, regardless of whether or not the chapter is attending the international convention. Chapters will have the opportunity to work with a representative from Better World Books to supply everything from posters and collection supplies to boxes and postage for shipping. There will even be a fundraising option, in which chapters can receive payment for each accepted book donation. Check [www.englishconvention.org](http://www.englishconvention.org) concerning the dates for this national book drive and how to launch your individual chapter's involvement.

**Call for Papers and Panels deadline:  
November 21, 2008**

## Registration

Everyone, including presenters, must register to attend the convention.

### Early Registration:

Register online between January 5 and February 25, 2009.

- \$50 for student presenters
- \$60 for nonpresenters, faculty, alumni, guests

### Late Registration:

After February 25, 2009, the late registration fee is \$80 for everyone.

### On-Site Registration:

After March 13, 2009, register on-site at the registration desk. The late registration fee of \$80 will apply for everyone.

**Registration opens January 5 at [www.englishconvention.org](http://www.englishconvention.org)**

## Ground Transportation

If you are flying to Minneapolis, the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis is located 15 miles (about 25 minutes) from the Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport. Follow the airport signs to ground transportation. Light rail trains run every 7 to 15 minutes. Exit the train at the Nicollet Mall Station and take a southbound bus eight blocks to the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis (1300 Nicollet Mall). Light rail fares are \$1.50-\$2.00. Request a transfer ticket when you purchase your rail ticket to avoid an additional 50 cents bus fare. Shuttle service is available via SuperShuttle. The SuperShuttle service desk (located in the Lindbergh Terminal) is open 24 hours a day. The SuperShuttle fare is \$16 one way, or \$14 each way if you purchase a round-trip ticket.

If you are driving to Minneapolis, you can get driving directions from [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com). The hotel address is 1300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55403. The Hyatt Regency Minneapolis telephone number is 612-370-1234.

## Need a Roommate?

Email the Central Office at [sigmatd@niu.edu](mailto:sigmatd@niu.edu). Please include:

- Your name and school
- Your address, email address, phone number
- Your gender
- Dates you need a roommate
- Whether you have made hotel reservations
- Number of roommates you wish

We must receive your request by February 25, 2009. **Sigma Tau Delta is not responsible for roommate compatibility. Attendees are responsible for their own reservations and expenses.**

## Reflections:

The ten thousand (and more) lakes of Minnesota and the many rivers, including the Mississippi, are the source for the 2009 convention theme of *Reflections*. The Dakota Indians gave us the word *minisota*, which means "water that reflects the sky." On a literal level, *Reflections* identifies the relationship between the sky and the sky-blue water, between the natural world and the human-made world. On a figurative level, *Reflections* suggests the contemplative meditations on the individual and on society often experienced in the presence of natural wonder. Furthermore, *Reflections* opens up the theme to ways of seeing how human endeavor and creativity are influenced by the natural world.

Undergraduate and graduate students who are Sigma Tau Delta members and active alumni are invited to submit original short fiction, poetry, drama, creative non-fiction, and analytical and personal essays focusing on or relating to the convention theme of *Reflections* or any subject of interest to the English discipline. Students, faculty, and active alumni may also propose panel presentations.



logo credit: Melissa Miller

**Paper and panel submissions  
must be emailed or postmarked by  
November 21, 2008, 11:59 p.m.**

Guidelines for submissions and submission forms  
can be found at [www.englishconvention.org](http://www.englishconvention.org)

**Check the convention website at  
[www.englishconvention.org](http://www.englishconvention.org)  
frequently for updates.**

A tentative schedule with list of presenters will be  
posted on the website in January, 2009.

# SIGMA TAU DELTA 2009 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

## REFLECTIONS



meditations  
ruminations  
contemplations  
observations  
speculations

## REFLECTIONS

**Hyatt Regency Minneapolis  
Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 25 - 28**



**SIGMA TAU DELTA**  
INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY

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