

confluence

international.
convention.

2007

sigma
tau
delta

pittsburgh, pennsylvania
march 28, 29, 30, 31

confluence *n* 1: a coming or flowing together, meeting, or gathering at one point 2: a flowing together of two or more streams 3: the combined stream formed by conjunction, e.g. the Ohio river formed by the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers; “the lost generation” formed by American expatriates and post World War I Europe; the Bloomsbury group; Andy Warhol’s Factory; the **2007 international convention** formed by the members of **Sigma Tau Delta** and the city of **Pittsburgh**.

Our **theme** asks you to consider how varying traditions, influences, or figures come together to produce something that is new, unique, or different. Students and active alumni are invited to submit original short fiction, poetry, and personal and analytical essays focusing on or relating to the convention theme, **Confluence**, or any subject of interest to the English discipline. Students, faculty, and active alumni may also consider proposing panel presentations.

Submissions for papers and panels must be postmarked by November 30, 2006.
Guidelines for submissions can be found at www.english.org.

confluence

The **HILTON PITTSBURGH** is ideally located at the **POINT**, where the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers merge to form the Ohio river (the site of the **Fort Pitt Museum**). Crossing the Warhol or Clemente bridges will bring you to the North Shore, site of the **Andy Warhol Museum**, **PNC Park** (home of the Pittsburgh Pirates), **Heinz Field** (home of the Pittsburgh Steelers), and the **Carnegie Science Center**, as well as a host of eateries. A short trip on the **T**, our rapid rail system, will bring you to **Station Square** and the **South Side**, both lively places. **Hard Rock Café** and the **Grand Concourse**, a beautifully refurbished train station, are there for dining, as well as half a dozen other restaurants. At **Station Square** you can take the incline to the top of **Mt. Washington** for more eating spots and spectacular views of the entire city. A short walk up Penn Avenue from the hotel will bring you to the **Cultural District**, home to four major theatres providing a variety of stage events. The **Cabaret** at Theatre Square usually hosts a show you can enjoy with or without food. And a short bus ride or longer walk past the **Convention Center** will take you to the **Strip District** (named for the strips of warehouses off the river), home of the **Heinz History and Sports Museum** as well as restaurants, clubs, and open markets. For the more adventurous there’s nearby Oakland and the unbelievable **Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History**. Whether dining at the World Famous **Primanti Brothers** (featured on The Food Network) or taking a river boat cruise around the city, visitors to our city quickly realize how much Pittsburgh has to offer.

Email sigmatd@niu.edu if you need help finding a roommate

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 23, 2007. Sigma Tau Delta is not responsible for roommate compatibility. Attendees are responsible for their own reservations and expenses.

Need a Roommate?

Phenomenal Pittsburgh!

Keynote Speaker

Friday Evening, March 30

Sharon Olds, recognized as a major voice in contemporary American poetry, is the author of eight books of poetry, most recently *Strike Sparks*, a selection of her work from 1980–2002. Her poems cover subjects such as childhood, sexual awakening, marriage, and parenthood. These subjects are treated in a frank, bold voice that marks Olds’s unique style.



Photo Credit: Catherine Mauger

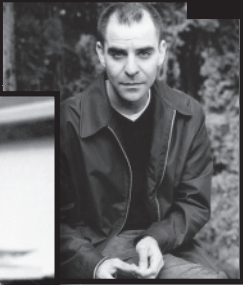


Photo Credit: Donald Denton



Photo Credit: Kristin Kovacic

Featured Speakers

Thursday Evening, March 29

David Rakoff is the author of two books, *Fraud* and *Don’t Get Too Comfortable*, and is a regular contributor to NPR’s “This American Life.” You’ve likely read his work in *Esquire*, *Vogue*, *The New York Times Magazine* and *Gourmet*. His beautifully crafted essays are often funny and biting observations about contemporary American life.

Saturday Evening, March 31

Jim Daniels, the Thomas Stockman Baker Professor of English and director of the creative writing program at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, is the author of nine books of poems, including *Show and Tell: New and Selected Poems* (2003), which was a finalist for the Paterson Poetry Prize. His most recent work is *Street* (2005), a book of poems accompanying the photographs of Charlee Brodsky. *Mr. Pleasant*, his third book of short stories, will be published in 2007.

Registration

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

Early Registration

Registration form and payment postmarked by February 23, 2007.

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

Late /On-Site Registration

After February 23, 2007, the late registration fee is \$80 for all participants. After March 16, 2007, participants must register on-site at the registration desk and pay the \$80 late registration fee.

Download a registration form at www.english.org.

Hotel

All official Convention activities will take place in the Hilton Pittsburgh. Located at 600 Commonwealth Place, the hotel is one of the city’s largest, most recognized hotels, ideally situated in downtown Pittsburgh and adjacent to Point State Park and Pittsburgh’s famed Three Rivers (the “confluence”).

Make your reservations no later than March 6, 2007. Room rates are \$109 per night for singles/doubles/triples/quads (excluding taxes). Make your reservations early—only a limited number of rooms are available at this rate! To reserve a room, call 1-800-HILTONS and be sure to ask for the ΣΤΔ discount. Hotel reservations can be made online by going to the ΣΤΔ Convention website at www.english.org/pittsburgh/index.html.

Ground Transportation

The Hilton Pittsburgh is located 17 miles from Pittsburgh International Airport.

Airport Shuttle The Express Shuttle ticket desk that is located in the baggage claim area (next to the Thrifty Rental Car desk) charges \$34 (\$32 for students with school ID card) for a roundtrip fare to the Hilton. No reservations are necessary. The shuttle leaves the airport every 30 minutes from 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM, each day. For the return trip to the airport, Express Shuttle picks up at the Hilton at 15 minutes before the hour starting at 4:45 AM until 9:45 PM. For more information about Express Shuttle, call (412) 472-3180.

Driving Directions The Hilton Pittsburgh is located at 600 Commonwealth Place. Driving directions to the hotel are available at www.hilton.com. Valet parking is available at the hotel for \$24.00 per day; self-parking is \$17.00 per day.

ΣΤΔ National Service Project

Book Drive for the Homeless Children’s Education Fund

The HCEF (Homeless Children’s Education Fund) is a non-profit organization that helps children in the Pittsburgh area. Please take part in this worthy cause and donate items at the convention this spring. A cash donation will be made to HCEF in the name of one donating chapter (to be selected by drawing). A suggested list of possible items for children in pre-kindergarten to the sixth grade includes:

- Reading books (age-appropriate)
- Picture books
- Beginning readers
- Books that depict diversity and urban life
- Bookmarks
- Art supplies
- Crayons
- Construction paper
- Colored pencils
- Pens/pencils

Chapter Sponsor Workshop

Back by popular demand! On Thursday morning, March 29, discuss the issues that sponsors face in fostering chapter involvement, recruiting new members, and developing chapter leaders. This workshop for chapter sponsors is led by Sandra Mayfield and Marybeth DeMeo, sponsors of Outstanding Chapter Award winning chapters. Professor Mayfield, a former Southwestern Regent, has been sponsor for the Chi Gamma chapter at the University of Central Oklahoma since 1999. Professor DeMeo, a former Eastern Regent and a former ΣΤΔ President, has been the Kappa Pi chapter sponsor at Alvernia College (Pennsylvania) since 1981.

Leadership Workshop

Learn from ΣΤΔ’s most successful chapters! The Student Representatives and Student Advisors are sponsoring *Confluence: Merging for Success* on Thursday morning, March 29. The workshop features two breakout sessions:

Session 1:
Fundraising
Service
Small Chapter Development
Chapter Administration

Session 2:
Fundraising
Service
Publishing a Literary Journal
Regional & National Involvement

Common Reader

Sharon Olds’s collection of poems, *Strike Sparks*, has been selected as the 2006–2007 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.