

## Keynote Speaker

### Friday Evening, March 7 - Suzan-Lori Parks

Playwright **Suzan-Lori Parks**, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Topdog/Underdog*, has won OBIE Awards and a MacArthur "Genius" Award for her works. Parks, who has written screenplays for such Hollywood heavyweights as Spike Lee, Denzel Washington, and Brad Pitt, is currently working on her second novel and on the musical *Ray Charles Live!* Her writing mentor James Baldwin noted that she "may become one of the most valuable artists of our time."



photo credit: Stephanie Dani

## Featured Speakers

### Thursday Evening, March 6 - Naomi Shihab Nye

Palestinian-American writer **Naomi Shihab Nye** has authored and/or edited over 20 works, earning four Pushcart Prizes, finalist honors for the National Book Award, numerous poetry prizes and awards, and honors for her children's literature. Nye grew up in St. Louis, Jerusalem, and San Antonio and "is a champion of the literature of encouragement and heart," according to William Stafford. Her work *You & Yours* was the best-selling poetry book of 2006.



photo credit: Ha Lam

### Saturday, March 8 - Kim Edwards

Before her first novel, *The Memory Keeper's Daughter*, was on the New York Times Bestseller list, Kentucky author **Kim Edwards** was an alternate for the PEN/Hemingway Award for her short story collection *The Secrets of a Fire King* (the 2007-2008 common reader). Edwards has also received a National Magazine award for excellence in fiction and a Pushcart Prize. Her works have appeared in such journals as *Ploughshares*, *Story*, and *The Paris Review*.



photo credit: Mark Kidd

## Common Reader

### The Secrets of a Fire King, Kim Edwards

Kim Edwards' first collection of stories, *The Secrets of a Fire King*, has been selected as the 2007-2008 common reader. The goals of the common reader are 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.

## Lovin' Louisville

The Sigma Tau Delta 2008 Annual Convention invites you to celebrate contradiction in a city that is something of a paradox itself. Perched between the North and the South, between the French king from whom it gets its name and its American rebel founder, the city seems to appeal to everyone. The downtown is, from afar, dominated by a skyline that virtually disappears once you're on the streets, surrounded by fountains and sculptures. The city hosts the most famous American version of the sport of kings at a park called Churchill Downs. Bourbon vies for menu space with the fine wine lists. Good clean Southern living meets horse racing and rare spirits. Louisville not only makes the juxtapositions work, it convinces visitors that the contradictions are, well, necessary.

You won't have to imbibe to find Louisville intoxicating. Nor will you have to wander far from our convention hotel, the Louisville Downtown Marriott, to find Louisville. From dining to specialty galleries, the Fourth Street Live! entertainment district to serene river scenery, bowling alleys to English pubs, interactive museums to quiet city parks—Louisville offers us a feast of contradictions to explore this coming March.

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

[www.gotolouisville.com](http://www.gotolouisville.com)

## Hotel

All official convention activities will take place in the Louisville Marriott Downtown at 280 W. Jefferson Street. The Marriott is one of the city's newest hotels, ideally situated in downtown Louisville, near the Fourth Street Live! entertainment district and the historic Main Street district.

### Room Rates

Sigma Tau Delta has reserved a block of rooms for the convention at a special group rate. The room rate is \$110 per night for single/double/triple/quadruple (excluding taxes).

### Reservation Deadline

The special group rate is available **until February 5th, 2008**. Important note — there is only a limited number of rooms available at the group rate and this block of rooms may fill before the February 5th 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 1-800-533-0127 and ask for the Sigma Tau Delta group discount.

## Leadership Workshop

Learn from ΣΤΔ's most successful chapters! The Student Representatives and Student Advisors are sponsoring **Necessary Contradictions: Serving to Lead** on Thursday morning, March 6. The workshop features two breakout sessions:

### Session 1:

Fundraising  
Publishing a Literary Journal  
Small and New Chapter Development  
Integrating Technology: Getting your Chapter Online

### Session 2:

Fundraising  
Publishing a Literary Journal  
Large and Growing Chapter Development  
Alumni Epsilon Chapter: Making the Most of Membership

## Chapter Sponsors' Workshop

New, improved, and back by popular demand! Discuss the issues that 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 take on a new format this year. Sponsors will now have 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. Not to be missed!

## ΣΤΔ Book Drive

The Student Leadership Committee has selected the Portland Neighborhood House, as the focus of the National Book Drive project. The Portland neighborhood is located in one of Louisville's most disadvantaged areas, and the Neighborhood House has expressed a need for books appropriate for middle-school-aged children. All Sigma Tau Delta and Sigma Kappa Delta chapters are encouraged to bring books to the Annual Convention and to make a lasting impact on this city. A \$100 donation will also be given in the name of the chapter that makes the most substantial contribution.

Call for Papers and Panels deadline is  
**November 14, 2007**

## Registration

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

### Early Registration:

Registration form and payment postmarked by **February 5, 2008**.

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

### Late Registration:

After February 5, 2008, the late registration fee is \$80 for all participants.

### On-Site Registration:

After February 22, 2008, register on-site at the registration desk. The late registration fee of \$80 will apply for all participants.

**Download a registration form at [www.english.org](http://www.english.org).**

## Ground Transportation

If you are flying into Louisville, the Louisville Marriott Downtown Hotel is located 8 miles from **Louisville International Airport**. Follow the airport signs to ground transportation. The taxi-cab stand is located on the traffic island outside of the terminal. There should be plenty of cabs waiting at the airport; however, should you need to call a cab, the cab companies are: Yellow Cab at (502) 636-5511 and Ready Cab at (502) 417-4406. One-way cab fare to the Louisville Marriott Downtown Hotel is a flat rate of \$18.70 for up to four passengers. **Share a cab to the Marriott and save money.**

If you are driving to Louisville, you can get driving directions from **www.mapquest.com**. The hotel address is 280 W. Jefferson, Louisville, KY. The Louisville Marriott Downtown telephone number is (502) 627-5045.

## 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 5, 2008. **Sigma Tau Delta is not responsible for roommate compatibility. Attendees are responsible for their own reservations and expenses.**

## Paradoxical or contradictory

moments reveal great truths about the universe and our place in it, or they may instead provide simple comic relief. Whatever their intent or result, pinning them down, teasing them apart until they unfold like an origami swan, does something special for us as readers. Contradictions require us to acknowledge the multitudes . . . and our own substantiality.

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, **Necessary Contradictions**, or any subject of interest to the English discipline. Students, faculty, and active alumni may also consider proposing panel presentations.



Submission for paper and panels  
must be postmarked by

**November 14, 2007.**

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

Check the convention website at  
**[www.english.org/louisville/index.html](http://www.english.org/louisville/index.html)**  
frequently for updates.

**Tentative schedule with list of presenters should be posted on the website by the middle of January.**

## Sigma Tau Delta 2008 International Convention

Louisville Marriott Downtown Hotel  
Louisville, Kentucky  
March 5-8, 2008

Paradoxes.  
Juxtapositions.  
Antinomies.  
Oxymorons.  
Contradictions.



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