



# Works Cited

Department of English & Theatre

Volume 2, Issue 10

Fall 2012

## Top Honors for Our SigmaTD Chapter

Spend a few minutes in the attractive and recently dedicated Casey Lounge on the second floor of the McDade Center for Literary and Performing Arts and you'll learn of Scranton's reputation as an outstanding chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honor society.

"Our Mu Omicron chapter has earned repeated recognition for its excellence," says Brad Wierbowski, current chapter president. "Credit for our prominence is shared by the membership and by our long-serving faculty moderator, Dr. Rebecca Beal. Over the past dozen years she's been especially resourceful and encouraging on our behalf."

Granted in 1980, the chapter received the international organization's Outstanding Chapter Award in 2004 and again in 2007. In 2006 it received an award for 25 Years

of Excellence and recognition for 30 Years in 2011.

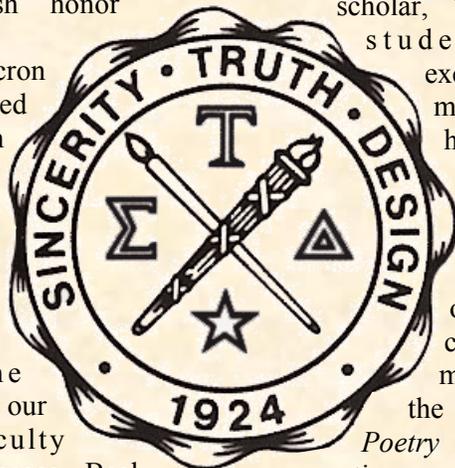
"When I became chapter moderator," says Beal, a PhD in comparative literature from the University of Texas-Austin and a medieval and renaissance literature scholar, "we recognized our

students' academic excellence by conferring membership and holding a brunch.

Since then, we've engaged in a variety of activities enabling us to share our love of literature—whether celebrating Poetry month by discussing

the most recent issue of *Poetry* magazine over pizza, presenting work at the national conference, or hosting a reception for first-year English and Theatre majors. Activities vary with each new set of officers, but I am always impressed by the enthusiasm and intelligence of our members."

Past and present members have won scholarships and prizes for critical



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## Congratulations!

C. J. **Libassi**, English/Philosophy/Spanish '10, was awarded a Fulbright to Spain for the 2012-13 year. Kiley **Lotz**, Theatre '14, featured in the recent Players' production of *Prelude to a Kiss*, has been awarded the Michael B. Bagdzinski Theatre Scholarship for 2012-13. Ryan **Pipan**, English/Philosophy/Honors '12, was awarded a Huayu Enrichment Scholarship by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York (a representative office of the Taiwan Ministry of Education). Rose Marie **Wong**, English/History/Honors '12, received the Outstanding English Major award at Seniors' Night 2012. Corinne **Nulton**, English/Honors '13, received a Presidential Summer Research Grant to support the writing of her thesis, a play entitled *14 Symptoms*. 

(Continued on page 3)



## Notes from the Chair

Smaller than a snail darter, & just as endangered.

Apostrophe's are disappearing, and theres nothing you can do about it. Period's and question mark's can tell you where other peoples sentence's stop and start, and comma's can actually save live's (*Lets eat Grandma!*), but at this point the only thing a properly placed apostrophe can do for you is to signal to your friend's, teacher's, and potential employer's that you were one of those nerd's who was actually shooting for perfect score's on the punctuation quiz's you took back in the eighth grade.

The sad fact is that nobody even knows what apostrophe's are supposed to tell us anymore. Oh sure, back in the day we all knew that apostrophe's were used almost exclusively for contraction's and possessive's, but then some idiot with influence in the textbook-purchasing department of some large states education bureaucracy decided that we should also use them for certain special plural's – you know, like when youre talking about all the Bs youre getting on your college paper's these days, or about how much fun you all used to have when you were carefree preschooler's back in the 1990s.

By the way, thats when it all started going downhill. I know some people think it began with the longstanding confusion over when to use *its* & when to use *its* instead, but if youd spent the last two decade's teaching writing and literature class's, the way that I have, youd know that the real problem is with plural's. And not just “special” plural's. That may have been true ten year's ago, but now even casual observer's will quickly see that the problems expanded to include practically every plural you can think of (except maybe the irregular one's like *children* or *octopi*).

So on the one hand, if youre one of those young adult writer's who uses apostrophe's only when youre overcome by a random puritanical impulse to prevent a terminal *s* from fraternizing with the rest of the letter's in the word, its time to re-think. And on the other hand, if youre only using these thing's to impress your English teacher's – and lets face it, that's really the only reason to pay attention to any of this stuff anymore – you probably should try to play by their rule's rather than yours.

*In our next issue: “Quotation marks”!!*  
— Jody DeRitter

## PLAYERS Fall 2012 Productions

THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON PLAYERS  
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**PRELUDE TO A KISS**

BY CRAIG LUCAS  
DIRECTED BY BOB E. GASPER

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STUDENT, FACULTY, STAFF, SENIOR \$7

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PLAYERS@SCRANTON.EDU

THE ROYAL THEATRE  
MCMADE CENTER FOR LITERARY AND PERFORMING ARTS

September 28-29 and October 5-6 @ 8:00 pm  
September 30 and October 7 @ 2:00 pm  
For mature audiences: Strong language and adult situations

WWW.THESCRANTONPLAYERS.COM

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Directed by Sheila Stasack

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November 9-10 and November 16-17 @ 8:00 pm  
November 11 and November 18 @ 2:00 pm  
For mature audiences: Strong language and adult situations

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COMING SOON

**24**

HR MUSICAL



*Sigma Tau Delta Officers — from left to right: Corinne Nulton, Chloé Briggs, Katie Olives, Brittney Collins, and Brad Wierbowski.*

## Top Honors

(Continued from page 1)

and creative work read at the annual national meeting. In Spring 2012 the chapter sent six members to New Orleans. In addition to delivering a paper there, current chapter president Wierbowski was recipient of the Junior Scholarship, a competitive honor based on academic distinction and service to one's college or university community.

"Brad is one of a number of students honored by the society," Beal explains. "In 2002, Rachel Henry won the Junior Scholarship, and Heather Theis was runner-up for the Senior Scholarship. The following year Talia Argondezzi won the Senior Scholarship. In 2006, Zack Monahan won the P.C. Somerville Future Teacher Award, Judith Hicks was runner-up for the Regnery Scholarship, and S. Pearl Brilmyer won the Senior Scholarship, which she found particularly useful when

## URS Hosts "Best" Essayist

Rachel Riederer, whose essay "Patient" appears in the 2011 *Best American Essays* anthology, was a guest of the University Reading Series on October 23. At the invitation of Joe Kraus, associate professor, she met with students in his WRTG 214 (Creative Nonfiction) in the afternoon and gave a free public reading of her work to an appreciative audience of students and faculty in Weinberg Memorial Library in the evening. Riederer, an M.F.A. from Columbia, teaches writing at Baruch College and Columbia and is the Daily section editor of *Guernica*, an online magazine. 📖

she began her doctoral studies at UT-Austin the following autumn." Beal believes chapter members could win more scholarships if they applied for them. "We've had a much better than 50% success rate," she reports. "Our students are that good." Since 2006, sixteen chapter members have presented work, both critical and creative, at the annual national meeting.

In 2003, Art Posocco received a Project Grand Award to fund a literary competition and publication at the University's Campus School for grades 3-8. Past members Matt Mercuri and Josh Perry have had work published in *The Rectangle*, Sigma TD's highly competitive literature journal.

Last year's chapter members oversaw the creation and dedication of the new Casey Lounge, named in honor of professor emerita Ellen Miller Casey, a Victorian literature specialist and founding director of the university's honors program. They also hosted a reception for visiting playwright Sarah Ruhl, Pulitzer Prize winner and author of *Clean House*. That play was a notable production of the University Players 2011-2012 season. In Spring 2011, the chapter hosted a luncheon for visiting poet Carolyn Forché. Current chapter members plan to establish an English/Theatre/Arts Club for interested majors and minors.

"This year's national meeting is in Portland, Oregon," Wierbowski says, "and I'm sure Scranton will be well represented once again. Three members presented invited papers at the Portland convention in 2006, and Dr. Beal moderated three sessions. There's every reason to think the chapter's tradition of excellence will continue."

Current members of Mu Omicron chapter are Brian Entier, Rachel Knuth, Cory Feltre, Jonathan Schall, and Andrew Milewski. The officers, in addition to Wierbowski, are Chloé Briggs, vice-president, Brittney Collins, treasurer, Katie Olives, secretary, and Corinne Nulton, historian-webmaster. 📖

University Reading Series presents

### Rachel Riederer

Rachel Riederer's work has appeared in *The Nation*, *Guernica*, and *The House*, among others. Her personal essay, "Patient," which discusses her recovery from a serious incident she experienced as an undergraduate, is included in the 2011 *Best American Essays* anthology.

She teaches academic writing at Baruch College and Columbia University, and is the editor of the Daily section of *Guernica Magazine*.

Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012

Time: 8:00 pm

Place: Weinberg Library Heritage Room

~ This event is free and open to the public ~



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#### Alums and Students!

If you have information for the Newsletter, please mail to:

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or as an attachment in Word format to:  
[scramuzza2@scranton.edu](mailto:scramuzza2@scranton.edu)

## THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON

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PROMISE

## EXPERIENCE OUR JESUIT TRADITION

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## CLOSE READING

Joe **Kraus**, associate professor and director of the University Honors Program, has an essay, "There and Back Again: A Song of Innocence and Experience" in *The Hobbit and Philosophy*; it also appears in *The Philosopher's Magazine*. Hank **Willenbrink**, assistant professor, had a premiere of his play *University Applicant* at the Jason Miller Playwrights Project Invitational at the Old Brick Theatre in Scranton in September. In anticipation of Halloween, he read his adaptation of Poe's story "The Fall of the House of Usher" to a fairly frightened audience in the Studio Theatre on Friday, October 26. A piece he wrote on *Performing the City*, the final performance project for the Spring 2012 Honors course, *The City as Theatre*, was featured on the playwriting blog HowlRound. Len **Gougeon**, professor and distinguished university fellow, has been invited by the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston to give a talk on "Cultural Warfare: New England, Old England, and the Civil War," the subject and title of his current book project, in January 2013. Current and former students in the Theatre program held important



staffing positions in the newly-launched Summer Theatre Camps for elementary- and secondary- level students in NEPA. Kiley **Lotz**, Theatre '14, was musical director for the musical *13* at the inaugural camp for Musical Theatre in Summer 2012. Jeff **Trainor**, Theatre '06, directed an adaptation of *The Little Prince* for the Physical Theatre for Young Actors camp. Corinne **Nulton**, English 13, also taught in the Physical Theatre for Young Actors camp. Given the strong positive response to this educational outreach effort, Theatre program director Rich



**Larsen** hopes to offer both camps and a camp on Playwriting in Summer 2013. Anthony **Mercado**, Theatre Minor '09, has enrolled in NYU's master's program in Performing Arts Administration with aspirations to "open my own theatre company someday." Peter **Alexander**, English/Theatre/Honors '14 and co-lead in the Spring 2012



Players' production of *A Year with Frog and Toad*, interned at SurfLight Theatre in New Jersey, performed in six productions, and earned his first Equity points. Matt **Porto**, English '12, teaches English in Taiwan and tours the island on weekends on his motorcycle. Dale **Giuliani**, adjunct professor, and Lynn **Scramuzza**, department secretary, have, for the fourth year in a row, successfully orchestrated a well received Veteran's Day Program for Asbury United Methodist Church. Working closely with local veteran's associations and uniting nearly 230 voices in song, this unique program highlights the history of Veteran's Day, celebrates the men and women we proudly call our nation's veterans, and invites the audience to sing along to familiar tunes like: *Over There*, *When Johnny Comes Marching Home* and *God Bless the U.S.A.* Next up? A sing-along Christmas program! 

