



SIGMA TAU DELTA

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY

Good afternoon, everyone. You've already been welcomed to our ceremony today, but please, let me welcome you again. On behalf of the Department of English, we are honored to have this opportunity to celebrate our students. We've already praised our award-winning students, but now it's time to welcome our newest initiates who are being inducted into Monmouth University's Delta Sigma Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society.

I have been a proud member of Sigma Tau Delta since I was inducted as an undergraduate student, serving as chapter president during my own junior and senior years at Monmouth. And for the past five years, I have served first as the chapter's Alumni Liaison, then Co-Advisor, and now as chapter Advisor. In this capacity, I seek to help our inductees and members have a transformative experience and flourish both within the Monmouth University community and in their lives after Monmouth.

Our student Executive Board is led by six incredible English majors—Melissa Lauria, who serves as our chapter President; Gabriella Arabio, who serves as our Vice-President; our Secretary, Judith Shingledecker; our Treasurer, Caitlyn Mazzella; our Director of Public Relations, Jenna Ciancimino; and our Director of Philanthropy, Kristina Bonadonna. Our Executive Board proudly represents all the areas of our undergraduate and graduate programs: from literary studies, to composition and rhetoric, to creative writing to English Education. Last year, they sat in your shoes, waiting to be inducted, anxious for their futures, and ready to serve their community. The fact that you are here this afternoon means that you've already established yourselves within Monmouth's English Department as distinguished scholars. You've successfully met Sigma Tau Delta's rigorous standards of academic excellence, demonstrated by your GPA as well as your achievement in the major. You've shown your commitment to your scholarship through extensive coursework in English Studies. As new members of Sig Tau, your exemplary character, good fellowship, and service to the university and community demonstrate your abilities as leaders and role models for both your peers within the major and the campus community as a whole. By using all aspects of English Studies—including literature, language, writing, and rhetoric—we, the members of Sigma Tau Delta, seek to positively impact our world. Our mission is to foster literacy and education on our campus and in the surrounding community.

Beth Sara Swanson, M.A., M.A.T.
Advisor, Delta Sigma Chapter