

## Honor Society Builds Community

Since Dr. Angie Calcaterra took over UWF's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta (the International English Honor Society) last spring, the society has set ambitious goals to promote scholarship, service, and community in literary studies. This year, we enthusiastically pursued these goals as we organized and participated in scholarly conferences and symposia, volunteer opportunities, and social events.



Sigma Tau Delta members have a wonderful opportunity to present their scholarly work each year at the Sigma Tau Delta Annual Convention. The selection committee receives a competitive pool of submissions, and we were very proud to have two students selected to represent UWF at this year's convention in Savannah, Georgia. M.A. candidate Laura Herbek presented a series of original poems titled "A Crooked Hunger" and senior Rebecca Steward presented a critical paper on the *memento mori* tradition in John Donne's poetry. Both Laura and Rebecca received insightful questions and positive feedback from audience members. Plus, we had fun! Shopping in Savannah and taking advantage of the city's beautiful parks and river walk were two highlights of the trip.

In February, Sigma Tau Delta students volunteered at Open Books, a non-profit, volunteer-run bookstore in downtown Pensacola that sends thousands of books each year to indigent inmates in Florida prisons. We packed books and answered letters from prisoners, gaining a deeper sense of the significance of access to literacy with each envelope sealed. As a testament to the impact of this work, all of the students who attended expressed interest in making Open Books volunteer nights a regular Sigma Tau Delta activity.

On the social side of things, in October we hosted a Halloween party where attendees dressed as their favorite literary characters. Dr. Allen Josephs easily took home first prize for his Zorro-inspired costume!

Most recently, we had an informational booth at the annual Take Back the Night event and our first faculty research symposium with Dr. Robin Blyn. We are already looking forward to getting more students involved and expanding our visibility on campus next year.