



Eta Epsilon Chapter Newsletter

Fall 2016

Editor: Faith Hubbard

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SURVIVING



By Chelsea Jones

Study, RESEARCH! Black Friday is not something that you want to take lightly. If you want to just go shopping and “see what you find,” good luck! The Sunday paper will be packed full of department store deals and it is my advice to sit down, flip through the sales papers and pick what you want to spend money on.

Think twice about electronics. Normally, electronics that are put on the front page where you get a 500” flat screen TV for only \$10.00 seem too good to be true, and they are.

Normally those brands of electronics are unheard of any other time of the year and are meant for you to buy now and break within a year (around next year’s Black Friday). They are poorly made specifically for this time of year. Check out the name brand sales instead.

If you have to fight over it, you don’t need it. Your life is not worth anything in that store. Enough said.

Most importantly, if you decide to go with someone, take someone patient. If you bring the wrong shopping partner, he or she may get annoyed with the crowds and wait times, so make sure you choose the right person.

Eva Library Reading By Mary Yahn



SKD sponsored a library reading at the Eva Public Library on November 5, at 10:30 am. The book chosen was *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*. Student volunteers read the storybook and made pom-pom mice crafts with the kids. Snacks were also provided. The library reading events sponsored by SKD are one of the best ways to promote literacy. If you are available to volunteer, please take part in these fun events.

Eva, Alabama, is a lovely small town in North Alabama. Eva is known as the small town with the big heart, and the library is the heart of this town. Betty Golden, the librarian, has been dedicated to the kids in this area for many years. The library has lots of events for kids including a summer reading program, visiting authors, and other activities to make this reading a fun event for everyone.



Above: Sharalyn Blackmon, Mary Yahn, and Jamie King

Jefferson State Community College

Jefferson State Community College follows equal opportunity admission policies and employment practices. College facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities.

PIONEER CON

Pioneer Con 2016

By Ethan Booth

Sigma Kappa Delta is proud to announce that we hosted Pioneer Con 2016 at the Shelby-Hoover Jeff State campus on October 14th. This was an all things geek celebration with key note speakers Lou Anders, the author of *The Thrones & Bones* series, and Kyle Sullivan, author of the *Trekspertise* web series. Also, there were student & teacher presentations, round-table discussions, games, a food truck, and a pizza party dinner! We had a great time seeing you at Pioneer Con and hope you had a blast!



Faculty and students after being steam-punked



Faculty and students with Lou Anders

Lou Anders By Mary Yahn



Lou Anders, author of the *Thrones and Bones* series, was a keynote speaker at Pioneer Con. The talented author was the perfect match for this science fiction lover's event. His current series of books is enthralling middle schoolers with fast paced action, fantasy, and hordes of monsters. Some of Anders' earlier work includes *Time Unincorporated 2: The Doctor Who Fanzine Archives* and *The Making of Star Trek First Contact*. Anders has also worked as editor of Bookface, a free online book service. He also has worked as a journalist writing over 500 articles for numerous magazines and publications. His current series includes a lush fantasy landscape of trolls, dragons, and young heroes and heroines. The series includes three books: *Frostborn*, *Skyborn*, and *Nightborn*.

Mr. Anders has received numerous awards including a Chesley Award for best art director and a Hugo Award. His website lists video games and travel as his favorite hobbies. As one of his dislikes he states, "I am afraid of oatmeal." Mr. Anders moved back to Birmingham in 2003 from San Francisco. He started his career in writing with plays, script-writing and then journalism. He currently has a website: Thronesandbones.com and a blog. Anders also has a very busy public speaking tour. He resides in Birmingham with his family and a pet fish named Blue.

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A Librarian and Her Books:
An Interview with Shelby Campus
Librarian Barbara Goss
By Faith Hubbard

Sci-Fi Lovers UNITE

By Chelsea Jones

In today's day and age, YouTube sensations arise from hard work and dedication to their dreams, and one of Pioneer Con's featured guests has found his calling in his web series, *Treksperitise*. Kyle Sullivan hit the ground running with his series, collecting over 1.7 million views in the past two years, with a staggering 38,000+ subscribers. Sullivan notes, "Treksperitise discusses the form, function and intricacies of science fiction" with a detailed focus on the Star Trek franchise. Topics range from analyzing an episode of *Star Trek* to discussing the behind-the-scenes work of the entire series. While *Star Trek* is the primary focus of *Treksperitise*, Sullivan tries not to limit the episodes just to *Star Trek*, but to expand to science fiction as a whole. *Treksperitise* has won awards from the Miami International Science Fiction Film Festival. Overall in his presentation, Sullivan broke down the meaning of *Treksperitise*, the behind the scenes work and what you can do as fans to reach out!



Kyle Sullivan during his presentation

Hubbard: How did you get into sci-fi?

Goss: My parents owned a used bookstore, and they'd let me get "first pick" always. I brought home *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, a collection of Lester Del Rey's short stories, and a smattering of Frank Herbert and have been hooked ever since. It's probably why I'm a librarian.

H: Favorite sci-fi authors and why?

G: To clarify, I am more a reader of fantasy than science fiction, but I do love sci-fi as well. Some of my favorites are Frank Herbert, William Gibson, Iain M. Banks, and Ray Bradbury. This is the short list. There's not enough room here otherwise. These guys are great at storytelling and providing different perspectives on just about everything ... from race relations to economics to war ... consciousness, artificial intelligence, and what it means to be "human" ...the list goes on.

H: What are you reading and thoughts about it?

G: Right now, I am re-reading [for the umpteenth time] Tad Williams' *The Dragonbone Chair* [book one of the series *Memory, Sorrow, and Thorn*] ... I did purchase Iain M. Banks' last novel, but I can't bring myself to read it. He is dead now [died in 2013], and in my mind, I will always have a "new" book by this genius.

H: What do you think of the idea of Pioneer Con?

G: Anything that helps students feel involved in the life of the college is awesome. Anything that gets a variety of students and faculty together is good for the students and the faculty.

H: Any ideas for next year?

G: Maybe the next iteration of Pioneer Con can be on FANTASY.

An Ireland Divided

By Ashley Kitchens



Dr. Catherine O'Rourke, a visiting Fulbright Scholar from Ireland, presented to a history class at Jeff State's Clanton campus on November 15, 2016. Dr. O'Rourke specializes in cultural and gender studies at Ulster University. Students, faculty, and staff attended this class and learned an overview of the civil rights struggles between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland is predominantly Protestant while the remainder of Ireland is predominantly Catholic. Dr. O'Rourke discussed the civil unrest and incivility shown to the few Catholics in this northern area. She brought her lecture to a close looking at the landscape of the

civil rights issues today. Ireland is still much divided, but broadening from the original religious civil rights issue, today much division is based on other human rights: laws governing people with disabilities, children, various ethnicities, sexual orientation, and women's reproductive rights.

MORE SKD EVENT PHOTOS



Members, students and faculty at Pioneer Con 2016

Check out our Facebook page for reminders of upcoming events!
(Jefferson State SKD)

Do you have an item of interest to share with your fellow members? Do you want to be an active member of SKD, but do not know where to start?

Contact us for further information.

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