

Davis given task of filling Shield's shoes

Damon Fouts
News Co-Editor

CCC English Instructor Kay Davis will replace retiring Jack Shields this fall as associate dean for the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Division.

Davis brings a variety of skills and experiences to the position, including 23 years of teaching at CCC, a PhD she acquired in 1995, a Fulbright Fellowship, stints as coordinator, director and department chair of the English as a second language department and fundraising efforts that have brought one million dollars in grants to the college.

She began teaching in 1972, and landed a position at CCC in 1973 as a Developmental Education instructor, teaching English as a second language (ESL). There were only two or three such programs in the U.S. at the time.

In 1975 she was teaching Adult Basic Education/GED, but returned to teaching ESL when the flood of Asian refugees began entering the U.S. after the Vietnam war. Davis returned to teaching Developmental Education when the number of Asians entering the country declined.

Davis was one of just 1000 instructors worldwide who earned Fulbright Fellowships in 1987, and only a handful of the Fulbright professors were from two-year colleges. Her application was 24 pages long, and was screened by three different screen-

ing bodies. The application process took a year-and-one-half. Her appointment received notice by the Oregonian newspaper and Oregon City's Enterprise Courier.

"I was ecstatic," said Davis. "They called me at school. My husband spent hours getting the computer to print sideways, so he could print 'congratulations' to

wrap around the family room at our house. I still have it."

Davis did much her fellowship teaching at the University of Panama during the height of the country's political instability concerning military

rule and Manuel

Noriega's ascension to power. When it became too dangerous to remain, she drove from Panama City to San Jose, Costa Rica and taught for six months in there. She returned to the U.S. for six months, then she resumed her teaching in South America.

"I woke up to gunfire two blocks away," she recalled of her time in Panama. "And I got caught in a riot outside the university while student demonstrators were rioting." She said she arrived at the college, only to find it locked to keep the riot from spilling into the university.

"There were about three or four thousand students demonstrating. Then Noriega sent the Dobermen in. Everybody was scrambling; it just erupted. Everybody said, 'You'll know them (the Dobermen) when you see



Photo by Paul Ulmer

English Instructor Kay Davis will become Associate Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Science this fall, taking on the responsibilities of Jack Shields. Davis has been teaching at Clackamas since 1972.

them, you'll know them when you see them.' Well I knew them all right. They were dressed entirely in black with black riot helmets, their faces covered with black plastic shields. There was a patch on their arms-- a white patch with a black doberman on it, with red blood dripping from its teeth."

Davis was in her car among the rioting mass. She was able to maneuver to the exit that led out of the college building and entered the exit, escaping the pandemonium outside. That was the closest she came to danger while in Panama.

Davis met a diplomat with the U.S. Information Service there. Through that meeting she has been given the opportunity to

conduct English training seminars in such countries as Thailand, Hungary, Georgia of the former Soviet Union, Slavokia and Mexico. So far, her travels on behalf of education have not met with any more insurrections.

When Davis isn't grading papers in her spare time, one place she can be found is the race track, rallying her husband to victory in his GT2 custom-built Toyota Celica. She's also a member of the crew.

"I'm a pit lizard. I do most of the timing and scoring," she said. Scoring involves keeping the driver appraised of his standings in the race. Whether the Davis' racing is a hobby or a profession depends on their position

in a race when the checkered flag waves.

"We don't get paid unless we win," she said. Her husband is usually in the top three at the end of a given race, and he's been national champion eight times and was the subject of a recent feature story in the Oregonian newspaper.

This quick-witted, quick-to-smile, PhD-carrying pit lizard was born in Pendleton, Ore., and moved to Roseburg when she was nine or 10. She worked in the Oregon State Senate between 1967 and 1969 as a receptionist and a page. Soon she was a secretary in the Senate President's office.

Davis attended Portland State University and Lewis and Clark College and received her PhD in Education from Oregon State University (OSU). Her dissertation was on ESL. She also has a first minor in English and a second minor in reading from OSU. Currently, Davis teaches classes in Advanced ESL, American Literature and Writing 123.

As an associate dean, Davis' responsibilities include supporting the development of instructors' curricula, representing her division and the college on committees and in council, effectively advocating the Arts throughout the college and the region, selecting and supervising the division staff, as well as fostering relations with the region's other educational institutions.

But that's not until September. For now, Davis is still a teacher, and that remains her focus.

"My biggest goal is to get through this term, because I'm still teaching," she said. "My classes and my students come first."

Phi Theta Kappa travels to D.C.

Laney Fouse
Copy Editor

Billed as a "Monumental Occasion," the 78th International Convention of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) will host thousands of advisors, alumni, administrators and honor students April 18-20, 1996 at the Sheraton Washington Hotel in Washington D.C.

Joining co-advisor Dave Arter will be Chapter President Rosemary Jane, Vice-President Sherrie Conover, fellowship committee chairperson, Meriwether Mersereau, enhanced member, Greg Wendling and Secretary, Laney Fouse.

Included among this year's featured guest speakers will be ABC news anchor and host of "Prime Time Live!", Sam Donaldson, Washington Post & Newsweek Columnist, George Will and actor/author/producer, Steve Allen.

The Keynote Address will be

delivered by PTK's International President Kris Kersey. Rev. Sam House will address the merits of alumni membership.

Introducing this year's service project is Jeanne White.



White, who lost her son Ryan to AIDS, is the creator of the Ryan White Foundation. She will introduce PTK's 1996-98 International Service Program, "CUE" - Compassion, Understanding and Education. By joining forces PTK and the Ryan White Foundation hope to combat AIDS and the misconceptions surrounding it.

Entertainment will include the Capital Steps whose trademark of political satire in song focuses on presidents, Congress-

men and other leaders.

After light years of remembrance it has grown to a size that could cover 17 football fields. A 32 panel section of the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display throughout the Convention.

Besides the speakers and entertainment during the four general sessions, participants will have the opportunity to enjoy the sights of our nation's capital. A puzzle-solving game is planned for Saturday afternoon and uses the monuments of Washington as clues. The winner will receive two round-trip airfares to anywhere in the continental U.S., as well as, a scholarship to the 28th Honors Institute.

Convention attendees will have the opportunity to greet the speakers at a scheduled book signing, and meet PTK members from the U.S., Canada and abroad.

Watch for convention follow-up and pictures in an upcoming issue of the Print.

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