

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society invades Washington, D.C.



Photo by Laney Fouse

(L-R) Phi Theta Kappa members Greg Wendling, Meriwether Mersereau, Sherrie Conover and Marlin Fouse gear up for the Great Debate.



Photo by Laney Fouse

Members visited the Lincoln Memorial on their Washington, D.C. tour.



Photo by Laney Fouse

The first female assigned to the Honor Guard was on duty at Arlington National Cemetery.

Laney Fouse Copy Editor

The 78th International Convention of Phi Theta Kappa, held April 18-20 in Washington, D.C., was indeed a "Monumental Occasion."

Five members, one advisor, and one family member from Clackamas attended the three day event which boasted an attendance of approximately 4,000 members advisors, alumni, family and friends.

Those making the 3,000 mile trip to D.C. included PTK President Rosemary Jane, Vice-President Sherrie Conover, fellowship committee chairperson, Meriwether Mersereau, enhanced member, Greg Wendling, Secretary Laney Fouse along with her husband, Marlin, and Dave Arter, PTK co-advisor and physical science instructor.

Cheers were heard from across the United States, Canada and abroad when PTK's International President Kris Kersey sounded the opening gavel at 7:30 p.m. in the Sheraton Washington Hotel ballroom to kick-off the first of four general sessions.

This year's festivities marked a change in seating arrangements which allowed each state and country their own section. During the parade of flags one state representative carried their state flag across the stage as Kersey took the roll call. Each flag bearer stepped forward to wave their flag to the cheers of those representing his or her state.

During Friday's second general session, members were entertained by the antics of the Capi-

tol Steps whose trademark political satire included takeoffs of President and Mrs. Clinton, Janet Reno, the Unibomber, and a rousing rendition of "We Like that old timer Robert Dole" sang to the tune of Bob Seger's, "We Like That Old Time Rock and Roll."

Also included during Friday's events were the College Fair and luncheon. Students met one on one with over 60 college and university representatives. The Academic Marketplace provided an opportunity for participating chapters to sell society related merchandise. It was also an excellent place for making new acquaintances and exchanging information.

In addition, the marketplace served as the site where convention goers had the opportunity to meet speakers Sam Donaldson of ABC's *Prime Time Live*, entertainer Steve Allen, and Jeanne White, creator of the Ryan White Foundation.

Although Donaldson was scheduled to debate *Newsweek* columnist George Will, a last-minute change occurred due to the serious illness of Will's mother. Standing in for Will was former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Jack Kemp.

In the foyer, adjacent to the marketplace, a 32-panel portion of the AIDS Quilt was on display. Each year's convention serves as the beginning of PTK's new International Service Program. For the next year, society members will unite with the Ryan White Foundation in what is known as "C.U.E. - Compassion, Understanding and Education," to help

battle AIDS and create a better awareness of it.

Jeanne White's speech along with the video "Gone Too Soon" (a dedication from Michael Jackson to her son Ryan White) left few dry eyes during the fourth general session.

Steve Allen, showed his true show business form. He was plagued by not only with the flu but with a microphone that obviously wasn't cooperating. One would have thought it was a part of the show because he carried it off with such style. Allen introduced this year's Honors study topic, "The Arts: Landscape of Our Time."

The educational forums provided throughout the convention provided members with the opportunity to pick and choose the areas in which they were most interested. Among the forums offered were fundraising, structuring chapter budgets, motivating members, building fellowship programs, scholarship and leadership programs, building membership and information on the Honors Institute.

The convention is also the time to elect the international officers for the coming year. Campaigning members took part in a political rally, a candidate caucus, and Honors Topic speeches. Their creative endeavors included campaign booths and memorabilia.

Capping off the event was the Hallmark Awards Gala and Banquet held Saturday evening at the Omni Shoreham Hotel.

Washington, D.C. provided an exciting backdrop for the celebration. With its modern underground subway the Metro, cabs on nearly every corner and tour trams available every fifteen minutes on the mall, getting around D.C. was extremely easy.

Sightseeing choices included visiting the Hard Rock Cafe or Planet Hollywood to watching the changing of the Honor Guard at Arlington National Cemetery.

The final highlight of the exhausting trip late Sunday night was cumulated by Mother Nature's spectacular light show which she provided as we left the city lights of the Dallas/Ft. Worth area behind us on our way home to Portland.



Photo by Laney Fouse

A lone soldier guards the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.



Photos by Laney Fouse

Jack Kemp, former HUD Secretary (Left) and Mississippi Governor, Kirk Fordice at the Great Debate.



Photo by Marlin Fouse

When Sam Donaldson asked Laney Fouse about her future goals, she responded that she would like to have his job.

(L-R) Sherrie Conover and Laney Fouse in front of the Reflecting Pool near the Washington Monument.



Photo by Marlin Fouse

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