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Kalauna Carter of Portland takes the podium during spring commencement at Tuskegee University in Alabama, sharing the stage with First Lady Michelle Obama.

Meeting First Lady Michelle Obama

Portland student gets an experience of a lifetime

BY KALAUNA R. CARTER

Growing up in Portland, I never in my life thought I would have an opportunity like this. Meeting the First Lady of the United States of America was one of the most humbling experiences of my life and forever life changing.

Mrs. Michelle Obama graced the illustrious campus of Tuskegee University in Alabama in May as the university's spring com-

mencement speaker. The possibility of her speaking came to reality just a couple of months earlier as preparations to accommodate her schedule were being put into place.

The summer prior to the school year starting, myself as senior class president and two other students, Krissean Lea and Jamon Pulliam, served on the Tuskegee

Senior Class Executive Board. We set ourselves on a mission to secure a speaker for the 2015 spring commencement. We took surveys to the seniors in the class to gain their opinions. Michelle Obama was the top choice, but as time went on we were unable to make successful contact with the First Lady's team.

We thought all hope was lost

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Peace Memorial

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gon Physicians for Social Responsibility, organizations which hope to engage the Portland community with historical and artistic events to educate and promote peace.

The two months long exhibit kicked off on Saturday with a lecture by Oregon Poet Laureate Peter Sears. On Thursday, Aug. 6, interfaith leaders will lead a peace vigil and the Wholistic Peace Institute will host a lun-

cheon with keynote speaker Ed Kawasaki, a Hiroshima bomb survivor.

A reception for the Educating for Peace Art Exhibit and 70th Anniversary of Nagasaki Bombing will take place Sunday, Aug. 9. Jeannie Smith, daughter of internationally renowned Irene Opdyke, a Polish liberator of Jews from Nazi Germany, will give a public presentation on Aug. 15, followed by guided tours of the Holocaust Monument in Washington Park by Jill Slanksy.

A Skype presentation from Hiroshima, Japan, will feature a bombing survivor will take place on Sept. 10, followed by a Berlin Wall remnant piece dedication on Sept. 11. A final presentation by Les and Eva Aigner, two holocaust survivors, will help close the month of events on Sept. 20.

All events, except for the Peace Lunch, are free and open to the public. For more information or to RSVP to Thursday's luncheon and lecture, visit wholisticpeaceinstitute.com.

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