

In November, Tupelo High School's Wave Media crew went on its most ambitious trip to date--to the National High School Journalism Convention in St. Louis, Missouri. The National High School Journalism Convention is a semi-annual event hosted by the Journalism Education Association and the National Scholastic Press Association. It is made to host a multitude of breakout learning sessions for student journalists and instructors from across the country and even around the world.

Like any trip halfway across the country, this trip required a lot of planning.

"Taking students out of state requires a lot of paperwork. We've had travel issues, finding a bus driver, and trying to figure out the financial costs," Journalism Teacher Shari Chumley said.

The most apparent wrinkle for the students was the significant cost of the trip.

Raising money was difficult, but outside of direct contributions a few methods were used. The students sold Wave Media T-shirts, sweatshirts, and advertisements through

the adopt a journalist campaign.

"We used an adopt a journalist program where students spoke to family, friends, and businesses. We raised about \$1,500 of the trip money with just adopt a journalist. Our community came in and said yes, we want to sponsor this trip. We also sold T-shirts and raised almost \$5,000 in T-shirt sales," Chumley said.

These struggles would prove to be worthwhile, as the convention would provide a truly unique experience to the Wave Media team.

"I definitely had some minutes where I thought, "is it worth it?" and "is it going to happen?" But, it was so worth it. I'm so happy that it happened," Chumley said.

The courses participants got to attend covered a variety of topics, everything from journalism ethics to how to write a good profile.

"The main one I can remember is the one about photography: about ISO aperture, depth of field, and F-stop. I haven't heard those terms in a long time, and going to that class was a real refresher." Editor-in-Chief Rico Morris said.

The convention would not be the Wave Media teams only stopping place. As a portion of the trip was dedicated to exploring the city of St. Louis, including visits to the famous Gateway Arch and St. Louis Aquarium at Union Station.

"Going to the events, JEA and NSPA, and going to classes was fun and good. But, I actually going exploring the city, that I have never been to personally, was my favorite experience," Morris said.

AN UNLIKELY CROSSROAD

Jevon Edwards

Senior Copy Editor

Nobody wants their life to be boring, even after settling down and retiring.

At least, that's what Nancy Hornik and her group of senior citizen friends believe. Dubbing themselves "The Cudahy Vagabond Seniors". The group found themselves staying in the same hotel as our Wave Media staff during our St Louis trip.

As Hornik and her peers filled the hotel lobby socializing on a Thursday night, we found ourselves crossing paths at the hotel for our trip to the

NHSJC.

Curious as to what a large group of senior citizens could've been doing there, we conducted an interview on them. We came out with more than what we bargained for, discovering that the group was actually from Cudahy, Wisconsin.

When being asked about how the trip came about, Hornik recalls "it was all organized by two wonderful ladies who picked out restaurants for [them]". They stayed in Branson, Mo for two and a half days and saw six shows during

the duration of their trip

Hornik explains that her favorite show was at the Sight & Sound Theatre. She describes it as "a fabulous christmas story presentation with live actors and animals".

So why come to Illinois just for a few shows? For the Cudahy Vagabond Seniors, it's about the experience.

"Well, we're called the Cudahy Vagabond seniors. So obviously, we're all old folks who like to still move as long as we can and see new sights," Hornik said.

The members of the group want to live their lives while they can instead of sitting and doing nothing after retirement.

"We have a lot of widows and widowers [in] the group. They can still socialize and [go about]," Hornik says.

These activities for the group are healthy for their members, as all need socialization at any age. These seniors have found an admirable way to stay active and entertained for as long as they can, and look forward to many more trips in the future.

TO ST. LOUIS, MO



Grant Edger
Junior Copy Editor

At the end of every day, the team would meet up in the hotel lobby to discuss what they learned. They discussed their ideas to improve the program and plans to implement them. "My favorite, favorite, favorite time that we had was after our first day of the conference. We all sat down in the dining area and talked about what the students what they learned what they want to bring back to our room," Chumley said. Students shared about the things they learned from the sessions as well as from other students.

Ms. Chumley encouraged the students to use their skills and interview people they met. Jevon Edwards wrote several feature stories about the people he met. (Read one below in the sidebar).

St. Louis wouldn't go without surprises though, namely the cold weather. On Saturday, it snowed about 2 inches. And unlike snow in Mississippi, this snow stayed on the ground for days.

"It definitely caught me off guard. I was not expecting to see snow out there, even though we have had snow down here. I just was not expecting to see snow," Morris said.

"I felt betrayed by Ms. Chumley. She said it was gonna be cold. But she didn't say snow cold. She just said cold. I was prepared for the cold part, but not the snow cold part," Review Editor Joshua Delacoudray said.

This trip would offer some students a new appreciation for the school's journalism program. The team was made up entirely of returning students who had already seen a lot of what the program had to offer, which is extremely notable.

"I felt different about the whole program and I wanted to help out more. It was a really cool experience," Delacoudray said.

Ms. Chumley said that she thought the trip was a "program changing" trip. As students came back energized and with more knowledge about what makes a great journalism program.

Luckily, there are future plans revolving around the Journalism Education Association and its conventions.

"We definitely are going to try to go to one national convention every year," Ms. Chumley said.

She is hoping to take the group to Kansas City in April of 2024.



From Bottom to Top (the way the Gateway arch was built):

1. On the way to the Old Spagetti Factory, Rico Morris captures a beautiful night by the arch.
2. Jevon Edwards and Thais Ito enjoy a warm cup of Starbucks hot chocolate and coffee on the snowy day. "I was horrified when we walked downstairs and Emmy said, "Look! It's snowing!" and I was afraid I was going to have a bad day," Edwards said.
3. Bella Maka captures the moment with Ms. Patterson, Emmy Dean, and Hasna Raymond while they wait on their train tickets.
4. Chloe Long, Amedei Ratliff, Thais Ito, Rico Morris, Jevon Edwards and Josh Dela Coudray take a selfie

- to check-in during a session at the NHSJC.
5. Adviser, Shari Chumley, takes a group selfie at Union Station during a sight-seeing trip. "One of the best parts of out of town trips is going to new places and visiting famous landmarks." Chumley said.
6. Emmy Dean, Hasna Raymond, and Bella Maka finish one of the many lectures they attended at the journalism conference. "I was able to go to different lectures that helped further my journalism abilities" Managing Editor Emmy Dean said.
7. Jevon Edwards takes a photo with students from another school. Edwards interviewed and wrote about a number of the people he met.

