

Colglazier to attend historic presidential inauguration

Written by Jes-C Brandt

By Jes-c Brandt

Megan Colglazier, an HHS junior, will be present to witness an historical event in Washington D.C. on Jan. 20. As a student at the Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference, she will be watching as president-elect Barack Obama is sworn in.

This won't be the first time Harvey and Nancy Colglazier will be sending their daughter to Washington D.C. As a junior high student, she attended the 2005 Junior National Young Leaders Conference. Following that, she attended the 2006 National Leaders State Conference in Denver.

Before attending the conferences, Colglazier noted she didn't know very much about procedures and policies surrounding the United States government. After being a part of the conferences, she has a newfound appreciation for politics.

Colglazier noted she is especially excited about this conference because of its important place in history. Furthermore, after taking a government class at school, and as an older student, she feels this one will be particularly enlightening.

This conference will have some similarities to the previous one. Colglazier mentioned she will see many old friends, and will even be rooming with a friend she made on her last trip to the capital. She noted, however, that this trip will have more focus on learning about election processes, from campaigning to inauguration.

As Obama begins inauguration events Jan. 17, Colglazier will be starting her conference. Activities are planned through Jan. 21.

Events outlined for the week include speeches by Al Gore, Archbishop Tutu, Lisa Ling and Colin Powell. They will also have the opportunity to meet various historians and decision makers who will be active in guiding the country in upcoming years.

Students will learn about past presidents' lives, centering on where they were as teenagers and young adults. To learn about the electoral process, attendees will take part in roundtable discussions, debates and other educational activities. On the evening of the inauguration, Colglazier will attend a Black Tie Gala Inaugural Ball.

After Obama has taken his oath of office, Colglazier will view the parade as they proceed down Pennsylvania Ave. and past the White House.

Colglazier expressed an incredible amount of excitement as she nears her departure to Washington D.C. It will be crazy, and it will be fun, she said, and it will be unlike anything she has ever experienced before.