

WPCC honor society takes honors in Dallas

Western Piedmont Community College's Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), the international honor society for community and junior colleges, was named to PTK's "Top 25" at the organization's 75th Anniversary International Convention in Dallas last week.

WPCC's PTK competed with 1,050 chapters from around the world for the honor.

Four representatives from Western Piedmont's Alpha Gamma Mu Chapter traveled to Dallas to attend the convention. The four attendees were chapter President Audrey Lail, Vice President for Service Joyce Brogan, Vice President for Fellowship Becky Breland and faculty advisor Ronald Caplette.

For the competition, each chapter submitted four essays based on the four "hallmarks" of PTK. Alpha Gamma Mu's four essays, describing the chapter's activities during the 1992-1993 academic year, accumulated enough points for the chapter to be designated "distinguished" for the year.

The essays explored the chapter's leadership, scholarship, service and fellowship activities, the four "hallmarks" of the society. Last month, their essay on fellowship won first place for the chapter at the state competition in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

The etched crystal award was presented by chapter President Audrey Lail to Western Piedmont's Vice President of Academic Affairs, Richard N. Greene, and joined other PTK awards in a display case in Moore

Hall Lobby.

Lail said the honor is even more prestigious when viewed in light of the chapter's background.

"We currently have a membership of 131. That represents a 200 percent increase in membership and interest since last year," she said. "We've gone from being almost a dormant chapter to the international top 25."

Examples of activities carried out by the chapter include a voter registration drive, sponsorship of WPCC Honors Week and the Annual Fall Speakers' Forum, faculty appreciation events and fund raisers to provide money for the society's three annual scholarships for area high school graduates.

Caplette, along with other advisors Robert Dockery, Larry Garrison, George Knox and Debra Wilmesher, provides advice, encouragement and guidance for the group.

"PTK is a dynamic organization that stresses academic achievement. That our chapter went this year from obscurity to national recognition while still maintaining high academic standards is a credit to the entire membership."

In order to be inducted as a member of Phi Theta Kappa, a student must have a 3.5 cumulative grade point average, must be at least a half-time student and have completed at least 24 credit hours. In addition, members must be recommended by their academic advisors.