

SAVE OUR
SEMINARY



AT FOREST GLEN

SOS NEWS

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SOS News is the newsletter of Save Our Seminary, the nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the historic National Park Seminary and engaging the public through education and advocacy since 1989.

Restoration Complete on the Aloha House Maidens

After several weather-related delays, SOS is pleased to announce the completion of our latest sculpture restoration effort! Thanks to the generous response to our Adopt-a-Maiden campaign, the ten beautiful cast stone caryatids supporting the brick arcade between the Chapel and Aloha House have been returned to their original glory. Conservation Solutions, Inc. completed the work in August to carefully remove layers of paint, clean, fill cracks,



treat and patch exposed metal, and repaint our lovely maidens.

A celebration of the maidens' restoration and recognition of the generous donors will be held on Saturday, October 15, on the Aloha porch. An impressive bronze plaque listing all the donors will be unveiled and later installed on a brick column next to the maidens.

Future Program on Veteran's Day

Mark your calendar for our next educational program on Friday, November 11, at 7:30 pm about the Army health care services at the Walter Reed Forest Glen Annex in the 1950's—the Korean War era.

Past Programs

If you missed attending our March program on Seminary athletics, or the program in July on the site's early history before the Seminary, we will be posting them to our website soon so you can see and hear them.

Our latest program in September about the SOS archives is now available for viewing at www.saveourseminary.org/events/past-events/. This program featured items from our collection and information about our collecting, conserving, and sharing the archives. SOS is fortunate to be the steward

of many artifacts relating to NPS's history – school catalogs and yearbooks, student photo albums and letters, artwork, architectural elements, and statuary to name a few. We look forward to sharing more of the archives with you when we are able to conserve and curate these interesting and sometimes fragile items.

Windmill Goes Dutch

What better way to show off the eclectic architecture of the NPS campus than restoring the finishing touch to the Dutch Windmill? Formerly the clubhouse of the Kappa sorority and now a private single-family residence, the Windmill recently received a new set of lattice blades to replace those that have been missing for at least 50 years. Owners Richard Birdsong and Paula Doulaveris received permission from the Maryland Historical Trust to install the blades in order to return this original, Dutch-inspired feature of the building.

SOS Summer Intern

SOS was lucky to have the volunteer services of Rebecca Gale, a history major at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. Rebecca offered her time this summer to help us organize the SOS collection of slides as well as prints dating from the late 1980s through 2007. Through Rebecca's efforts, the SOS prints – stored for years in shoeboxes – are now labeled and properly stored in archival sleeves and binders. Numbering nearly 1000, these



photos document the decline and renaissance of NPS and create an important record of the changes to the site over the recent past decades.

Treasure in the Archives

SOS recently received this photograph of the National Park Seminary faculty from the 1899-1900 school year. The photo was donated by the family of an alumna from the class of 1900. What is so valuable to us about this particular picture – in addition to its age – is that it is labeled on the back. We can now put names and faces together to better round out our understanding of the Seminary's fledgling years as an institution.



Site Happenings

SOS is pleased to report that the owner of the Firehouse, Power Plant, and the Maid's Quarters/Practice House has initiated some stabilization work on the property. The sagging porch of the **Maid's Quarters** has been supported with temporary jacks and loose and falling roof shingles have been replaced. While the building still presents an eyesore to residents and visitors, the work will help secure the building for safety purposes until a restoration plan is developed.

Work is ongoing to convert the former **Stables** to condominium units. Most of the old interior has been removed and crews are currently framing out the units.

Contractors have been very busy at **Colonial House** outfitting the interior as a single-family home, including digging out the basement for fully usable living space.

Renewed or Not Renewed?

Thank you to the many SOS members who renewed their annual membership for the July 2016-June 2017 year! Renewals for all members are due at the beginning of this time period, so if you haven't already renewed, we would appreciate you going online to <http://www.saveourseminary.org/support-sos/join-renew/> to either send in your check or pay online. We sincerely appreciate your support so that we can continue providing education and preservation of the history of National Park Seminary.