



## Dear Parents:

Please encourage your student to submit a report about his or her summer experience to Daisy Hurte or Donna Roberts so we can all hear about what was learned at the various summer academies our students attended. Here's the first of what we hope will be many:

## Summer in New England

by Abie Odejimi (Oklahoma City, '07)

This past summer I went to Worcester Polytechnic Institute for a summer program in engineering. The program lasted for ten days and was geared toward different specializations of engineering. Each day we attended a lecture or a lab that focused on electrical, civil, time, computer, material, industrial, or chemical engineering. During our free time the program assistants took us on outings to Six Flags New England, Massachusetts' Intel Fabrication Center, and to downtown Boston.

The spotlight of the program was our main project, which was presented to us by the Air Force ROTC Program. They wanted us to use the knowledge we gained from the lectures to assist us in creating and developing a machine prototype that had the capabilities of detecting and disarming land mines. On the last day of the program we presented our prototypes to the AFROTC representatives and had a closing luncheon.

Although the program was rigorous it was very exciting.

## PAOSSM ([www.paossm.org](http://www.paossm.org))

To All OSSM Parents:

A big "thank you" to all of you who have sent in your Event Sign-up Sheets. We've already used them to arrange for snacks and memorabilia sales in the Student Lounge for Parents Day tomorrow. And, to those who have not yet sent yours, consider doing that right away. If you don't, you could miss out on a lot of fun. We are sure those who have already responded would love to share the joy!

## OOPS!

There's a bit of a boo-boo in the 2006-2007 OSSM calendar. The main number for the dorm is, in a word, wrong. It should be 522-1909. No matter how many times one proofreads, there's always something!

Chris & Mack Harris

## Counselor's Corner

Listed below are *additions* to last week's list of college representatives who will be visiting campus in the next few months. The entire list of visits can be found on the OSSM website on Professor Jack Gleason's home page.

University of Arkansas

Mon., Sept. 11, 11:30 a.m.

Sewanee: University of the South

Tues., Sept. 12, 11:30 a.m.

Centenary College (Louisiana)

Wed., Sept. 13, 7:15 a.m.

St. John's College (New Mexico)

Wed., Sept 13, 7:15 a.m.

University of Pennsylvania

Tues., Sept. 26, 5:30 p.m.

Boston University

Fri., Sept. 29, 7:30 a.m.

Texas Christian University

Tue., Oct. 3, 7:30 a.m.

University of Chicago

Tue., Oct.10, 3:30 p.m.

Southern Methodist University

Wed., Oct. 11, 11:30 a.m.

Middlebury College (Vermont)

Fri., Oct. 13, 11:30 a.m.

## What is the PSAT/NMSQT?

The PSAT/NMSQT measures critical reading, math problem-solving, and writing skills.

## Why take the test?

- . to get feedback on critical reading skills
- . practice for the SAT Reasoning Test
- . to start getting ready for college
- . to enter the PSAT scholarship competition

## Things to Know

Test Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2006

Test Fee: \$12.00

See Mrs. Daisy Hurte or Mrs. Johanna Lee to pay for the test.

## Happy Birthday to:

Jennifer Melot August 30

Michael Yang August 31

Mrs. Daisy Hurte September 2

## **Meet the Faculty**

*Meet the Faculty* will be a regular feature in this newsletter as space is available, week by week. Hopefully, by the end of the school year, you will have been introduced to OSSM administrators and every member of the teaching faculty.

A number of OSSM faculty perform double-duty, teaching courses and also taking on administrative responsibilities. Two of those are Professor Jack Gleason, and Dr. Xifan Liu.

### **Professor Jack Gleason Dean of Students Professor of Mathematics and Meteorology**

Professor Jack Gleason joined the mathematics faculty in July, 1991, and was named interim Dean of Students in 1992. He earned his degree in mathematics at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, and his MS in meteorology and oceanography at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. Both degrees were fully funded by the U.S. Navy.

Prior to undertaking a second career in education, Professor Gleason served in the US Navy for 22 years: eight years as an enlisted weather observer and forecaster, six as a line officer in ships, and eight as a science officer. During his years in the Navy, Professor Gleason and his family lived in Australia, California, Italy, Japan, Maryland, New Jersey, and Utah. His naval duties also gave him the opportunity to work in China, Djibouti, Iran, Iceland, Korea, Kenya, Republic of the Philippines, Scotland, Spain, Singapore, Somalia, and Thailand.

The professor began his teaching experience as an undergraduate at the University of Utah, where he had part-time employment grading math papers, working in the “math labs,” and as a teaching assistant in mathematics. He also taught college math for naval personnel outside the United States. He was appointed to the faculty at the Naval Academy in 1984, teaching atmospheric thermodynamics and ocean dynamics in the oceanography department where he earned the academic rank of Senior Lecturer and served as the oceanography department senior academic adviser.

Professor Gleason is married to the former Bonnie Muldoon. The Gleason’s have two daughters and a son-in-law - Andrea, Johanna, and Quentin – and two grandchildren, Katherine and Matthew. Professor Gleason enjoys all sorts of cooking and eating, reading (and re-reading) “great books” and books about “great books,” historical fiction, game fishing, and volunteer work for the US Naval Academy.

### **Dr. Xifan Liu Professor of Physics Assistant Director of Academic Services**

Dr. Xifan Liu has been a professor at OSSM since 1992, so he is the senior member of our physics faculty. Dr. Liu is a native of Beijing, China, where he earned his BS at Beijing Normal University before coming to the United States to attend the University of Oklahoma. He earned his MS at OU in 1986, and his PhD in 1992. Here at OSSM, Dr. Liu teaches General Physics; Mechanics; Thermal Physics, Waves and Optics; Electricity & Magnetism; and Modern Physics I & II. He also assists Dr. Lease in the capacity of Assistant Director of Academic Services. Under his teaching and coaching over the years, eight OSSM students have progressed to be members of the United States Physics Olympiad Team, one winning a gold medal in 1995. Currently he coaches the OSSM Physics Bowl Team.

Dr. Liu is an accomplished photographer and is a Kodak football photo contest winner. As a sports photojournalist for an Oklahoma newspaper and as a free lancer, Dr. Liu has been on the sidelines of OU football and basketball games, including bowl games, since 1987. In addition, Dr. Liu is an accomplished mountaineer. He has climbed three 20,000 ft. mountains in the Himalayas, and fifteen 14,000 ft. peaks in Colorado, California and Washington State. His most exciting feat was climbing a twenty-thousand foot virgin peak in Tibet – his two-man group was the first to ever set foot on the peak.

Dr. Liu and his wife Jingling Zhou, who is an officer with a mortgage company, have a 7-year-old daughter, Claire, and a one-year-old son, Victor. They live in Norman. Last year, Dr. Liu was the recipient of the McCasland Foundation Faculty Award, the first in a series of awards that benefit the OSSM Foundation Faculty Endowment Campaign.