



Good News

- Aniq Rahman (Norman) is one of only 55 applicants, in a pool of 450, invited to interview for the Rochester University Early Medical Scholars Program;
- Justin Colvard (Hartshorne) has been accepted to Texas Christian University and was awarded the Chancellor Scholarship which is valued in excess of \$85,000 over four years;
- Matt Stanley (Edmond) has been accepted to Georgia Tech and Tulane University;
- Morgan Thompson (Roff) has been awarded the Distinguished Scholars Award from Tulane University for \$22,000 per year;
- Preseta Paul (Oklahoma City) has been awarded the Bowman Foster Ashe Scholarship from the University of Miami. The academic scholarship is valued at \$21,300 per year;
- Andrew Hammonds (Shawnee) has been admitted to Westminster College.

Three are Finalists in National Achievement Program

Sarah Anoke (Tulsa), Fozoh Saliki (Stillwater), and Daku Siewe (Stillwater) have advanced to Finalist standing in the 2005 National Achievement Scholarship Program, the privately financed, academic competition for Black American high school students.

This spring, more than 800 of the 1,300 Finalists in this year's competition will win one of two types of Achievement Scholarship awards:

- One time, single-payment National Achievement \$2,500 Scholarships will be awarded to approximately 700 of the Finalists;
- Corporate-sponsored Achievement Scholarship awards will be offered to at least 100 of the Finalists who have qualifications specified by a company or business sponsor. Most corporate-sponsored awards are renewable for up to four years and are transferable between colleges.

The program specifies that no student may receive more than one Achievement Scholarship award, and every scholarship must be used for full-time attendance at a college or university in the United States that holds accredited status.

We wish our three outstanding students good luck in the competition for scholarship awards, and congratulate them on reaching Finalist standing in the very competitive program.

National Merit Names Finalists

Every one of our 13 seniors who were named Semifinalists in the 2005 National Merit Scholarship Program have advanced to the level of Finalist.

Last fall, when these seniors became Semifinalists, they had the opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,000 awards that will be offered this spring. More than 1.2 million students in over 20,000 high schools entered the 2005 Merit Program when they were juniors by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Less than one percent of the nation's high school seniors were named Semifinalists. The Semifinalist talent pool is designated on a state representational basis, and the number of Semifinalist in each state is proportional to its percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

To become Finalists, the Semifinalists had to have an outstanding high school academic record, be endorsed and recommended by school officials, and submit SAT scores that confirmed their earlier qualifying test performance. They had to submit a detailed application that included a self-descriptive essay and information about participation and leadership in school and community activities.

The Finalists are now eligible for Merit Scholarship awards. Next month the National Merit Scholarship Program will begin mailing scholarship offers to winners, and later in the spring other scholarships will be forthcoming from universities and corporations.

Congratulations to Jason Chen (Edmond), Nick Eckenstein (Oklahoma City), Annalee Embry (Ponca City), Sarah Kassis (Oklahoma City), Rayus Kuplicki (Tulsa), Michael Liang (Tulsa), Aggie Malatinszky (Edmond), Nadia Sebastian (Oklahoma City), Matt Stanley (Edmond), Sarah Stark (Edmond), Angela Sun (Norman), Kevin Woodson (Norman), and Dafang Zhang (Tulsa).

Additionally, National Merit Finalists automatically qualify for the Oklahoma State Regents Scholarship, so Annalee, Sarah Kassis, Rayus, and Aggie now qualify for that award. Congratulations!

Happy Birthday to:

Jonathan Francis	February 16
Keenan Smart	February 16
Mustafa Zorlu	February 17

Counselor's Corner

OU bound engineering majors should complete the College of Engineering scholarship application this month. Priority will be given to applications submitted by March 1, 2005. These scholarships cannot be combined with National Merit Awards.

The Multicultural Engineering Program Scholarship applications are due on March 1, 2005.

Just so you know how competitive things are out there, I had an email from a colleague, the Director of Admissions at Duke University. He stated that he anticipates in excess of 18,000 completed applications this year. That's an all-time high. He said that "some students we would have gladly admitted in years past, we will simply be unable to admit this year . . . there may be some surprising and sharp disappointments in April."

Gary Salwierak

OKML Competition Update

Jason Chen (Edmond, '05), Michael Liang (Tulsa, '05), Kjell Sawyer (Blanchard, '05), and Dafang Zhang (Tulsa, '05) had perfect scores in the third exam in the Oklahoma Mathematics League competition, helping OSSM stay ahead of Jenks and Norman high schools in the contest.

Other students who have been performing incredibly well and are listed as high scorers, cumulatively, are Nick Eckenstein (Oklahoma City, '05), Kevin Woodson (Norman, '05), Keenan Smart (Moore, '05), Adam Dixon (Bartlesville, '05), Mustafa Zorlu (Oklahoma City, '05), Daniel Freno (Oklahoma City, '05), Mary Anne Peters (Purcell, '05), Aniq Rahman (Norman, '05), and Matt Stanley (Edmond, '05).

Congratulations to these students and their coaches, Professors Yunhua and Chengde Feng.

Thank you to . . .

. . . Eric Beaver (Checotah '06), Sarah Copley (Marlow, '06), Lasya Ranebenur (Edmond, '06), Amber Shipman (Glenpool, '06), Rachel Weng (Edmond, '06), Zoheb Hajjiyani (Anadarko, '06), and Christian Clanton (Guthrie, '06) for allowing themselves to be shadowed by prospective students. Christian had two separate shadows this week;

. . . and to Mary Anne Peters (Purcell, '05), Sarah Radke (Edmond, '05), and Blaine Riggs (Watonga, '05) for giving tours of the campus.

Students Attend "Manners" Seminar

You may notice a subtle improvement in your student's demeanor the next time you have him or her in a situation where you are meeting new people. This week students attended a session presented by Mrs. Ann Hoover of the Hoover Protocol & Etiquette Centre. The seminar included instruction and practice in handshaking, the protocol of introducing people properly, and a few tips on what to do at a formal luncheon or dinner. More specific information on "table manners" will be presented in late March, when students attend a formal dinner after an hour-long manners tutorial.

"The acquisition of good manners," explains Mrs. Hoover, "is a learned skill that gives professionals a winning edge in the competitive marketplace." She said that she hopes her sessions at OSSM will help students excel in future college and job opportunities.

Mrs. Hoover is professionally certified and trained in protocol and etiquette. She earned a Corporate Etiquette and International Protocol Consultant degree from the Protocol School of Washington, the leader in training military officers, diplomats, and international business executives. She stressed to OSSM students the importance of being aware of diverse cultures and respecting customs.

Ruth Droescher (Norman, '05) said she will find the tips Mrs. Hoover provided at the seminar useful, and Sarah Stark (Edmond, '05) said she is now really looking forward to the dinner in March.

So, the next time your student arrives at home, before the hug, shake his or her hand just to see how it feels!

Guitarist Entertains and Informs

At OSSM Wednesday this week we were entertained by classical guitarist, David Burgess. Mr. Burgess, who is visiting Oklahoma City from his home in New York City, has won top honors in many international music competitions including the Ponce International Competition in Mexico City, the Guitar '81 Competition in Toronto, and the 31st International Music Competition in Munich.

Mr. Burgess began studying guitar at the Estudio de Arte Guitarristico in Mexico City, with the pre-eminent Argentine guitarist, Manuel Lopez Ramos. He later earned a Diploma di Merito, while receiving a full scholarship at the Accademia Musicale Chigiana in Siena, Italy. After earning a Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Washington, he was appointed guitar instructor at both the University of Washington and the Cornish Institute of the Arts in Seattle. In 1984, he was selected as the first recipient of the Andres Segovia Fellowship, after which he periodically received classes from Maestro Segovia until the Maestro's death in 1987.

As he entertained with his music, Mr. Burgess also told students some of the history of classical guitar and how different styles have evolved in countries around the globe.

Thanks to Dr. Dorothy Dodd for her efforts and bringing in this outstanding performer.