



Good News

- Krushangi Patel (Oklahoma City) has been admitted to the University of Oklahoma and awarded a University Scholar Scholarship;
- Robert Lindsey (Ada) has been offered a University Academic Scholarship of \$6,000 per year by the University of Tulsa.

Academic All-Staters Named

Five OSSM seniors have been named 2005 Academic Allstaters by the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence. The Foundation is a privately funded, statewide, non-profit organization created to recognize and encourage academic excellence in Oklahoma's public schools. Each All-Stater will receive a \$1,500 scholarship and will be honored at the Academic Awards Banquet in May.

Congratulations to Sarah Anoke (Tulsa), Jason Chen (Edmond), Matt Stanley (Edmond), Sarah Stark (Edmond), and Dafang Zhang (Tulsa).

33 Qualify for Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship

Dr. Manning announced this week that 33 OSSM seniors have qualified to apply for the federally funded Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program by having an ACT of 32, or an SAT of 1420, or both. The scholarship provides awards for students from each congressional district. The amount of the award varies from year to year, and Oklahoma Superintendent for Public Instruction Sandy Garrett expects this year's award to be \$1,500. The program rules allow for renewal of the scholarship for an additional three years if funding is available and the student can prove academic eligibility.

Congratulations and good luck in the continuing competition to: Sarah Anoke (Tulsa), Daniel Brigance (Poteau), Jason Chen (Edmond), Justin Colvard (Hartshorne), Ben Cook (Harrah), Chris Crowe (Ardmore), Adam Dixon (Bartlesville), Ruth Droescher (Norman), Nick Eckenstein (Oklahoma City), Annalee Embry (Ponca City), Hallie England (McAlester), David Eyster (Ponca City), Ross Hallren (Fairview), Robert Haussman (Harrah), Jordan Johnston (Oklahoma City), Rayus Kuplicki (Tulsa), Brian Lee (Muskogee), Michael Liang (Tulsa), Jacob Mayden (Oklahoma City), Jeffia Pan (Ponca City), Preseta Paul (Oklahoma City), Fozoh Saliki (Stillwater), Kjell Sawyer (Blanchard), Nadia Sebastian (Oklahoma City), Daku Siewe (Stillwater), Keenan Smart (Moore), Matt Stanley (Edmond), Sarah Stark (Edmond), Katharine Stroukoff (Stillwater), Angela Sun (Norman), Kevin Woodson (Norman), Dafang Zhang (Tulsa), and Mustafa Zorlu (Oklahoma City).

Senator Robert C. Byrd, currently serving in the United States Senate representing West Virginia, authored and secured passage of the scholarship program to provide college scholarships to eligible graduating high school seniors in every state. The purpose of the federally funded program is to provide scholarships in an effort to:

- Promote student excellence;
- Acknowledge outstanding academic student achievement;
- And recognize exceptionally able students who show promise of continued academic excellence.

PAOSSM
(www.paossm.org)

- ✓ Our next sponsored event will be hosting the Hometown Teacher Appreciation Reception on March 9;
- ✓ Yearbook sponsorships continue to be a priority. Only about half of the cost of the yearbook has been sponsored to date;
- ✓ Memorabilia sales will start at 3:00 p.m. on March 11. This is the afternoon before spring break. Other sales this year will be on April 23, during Interview Day, and May 14, during an Open House that is to be held for students interested in attending OSSM.

Thanks and, as always, we appreciate your support.

The Eckensteins

Happy Birthday to:

Lucy Liu	February 29 (March 1, this year)
Loan Vu	March 3



Three Physics Standouts Hope for Place on US Team

Jason Chen (Edmond, '05), Nick Eckenstein (Oklahoma City, '05), and Michael Liang (Tulsa, '05) have qualified to continue in the competition for a place on the 2005 United States Physics Olympiad Team, Dr. Xifan Liu, who coaches the Physics Olympiad hopefuls, announced last week. They will sit for a second examination in March, after which 24 students from across the United States will be invited to join the team. After a nine-day training session, five team members will be selected for the "traveling team" which will compete in Salamanca, Spain, in July, with students from all around the world.

OSSM students have had a good deal of success in this competition through the years. We will keep you informed about the progress of this year's three candidates as the competition continues.

Robotics Expert Featured Speaker

OSSM Wednesday was again a very interesting and informative assembly. Dr. Matthew Mason of Carnegie Mellon University presented a lecture on robotics.

Dr. Matthew Mason is a native of Oklahoma City. He graduated from Northwest Classen High School in 1970. Dr. Mason claims that it took him six years to get his Bachelor's degree, because he dropped out for two years in order to get married and attend OU football games! However, he eventually went on to earn his BS, MS, and PhD degrees in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Since 1982 he has been on the faculty at Carnegie Mellon University as a professor of Computer Science and Robotics, and currently serves as the Director of the Robotics Institute at CMU.

Dr. Mason is currently pursuing research interests at the Robotics Institute in designing and building intelligent robots which perceive and manipulate physical objects as effectively as humans can. In order to build such robots, Dr. Mason is focusing his research in three main areas: autonomous manipulation in simple task domains, mechanics of manipulation and the development of learning robots which can intelligently evolve based upon their own observations.

Aniq Rahman (Norman, '05) introduced Dr. Mason, and Robert Lindsey (Ada, '05) opened the assembly with an outstanding piano solo.

Thank you to . . .

. . . the students who continue to help Ms. Donnolo in the Admissions Department by spending five or more hours of a day with prospective students shadowing them. This week those students were juniors Jonathan Francis (Pocola), Anh Tran (Oklahoma City), Raquel Phillips (Wagoner), John Davidson (Sallisaw), Coreen Hayes (Hollis), Katie Southard (Ponca City), Otis Chodosh (Edmond), Jennifer Li (Edmond), David Walker (Duncan) and senior Patrick Deakins (Wynnewood);

. . . and to Ashley Keeling (Stratford, '05) for giving a tour of the campus on Friday.

"American Hero" Lectures

Thanks to the generosity of the PAOSSM and the OSSM Foundation, students had the opportunity this past week to attend a talk by John Glenn, former United States Senator and astronaut (U.S. Marine Corps, retired).

Senator Glenn's lecture was part of a series presented by the Oklahoma State University School of Business. Students were bused to the Oklahoma City Civic Center Music Hall for the lecture. In the hour-and-a-half talk, Senator Glenn shared some anecdotes about his two space flights -- the first being his experience piloting the Mercury-Atlas 6 "Friendship 7" spacecraft on the first manned orbital mission of the United States in February of 1962. Thirty-six years later, Colonel Glenn, at the age of 77, flew on a 9-day mission on the *Discovery* space shuttle during which the crew supported a variety of research payloads including investigations on space flight and the aging process.

As a United States Senator from Ohio, Senator Glenn spent 24 years in the Senate. During the "political" portion of his presentation he talked about a number of current issues -- clearly stating his position on issues from the future of NASA, to foreign policy, and where he agrees or disagrees with the current administration.

Adam Hempill (Forgan, '06) commented that he thought Senator Glenn's talk was "very educational . . . a rare opportunity to hear an American hero speak."

Parents ~ you did it again. Thanks to all of you who helped prepare, serve and clean-up on Thursday afternoon (grades day) to provide a much-needed break for students. Ruth and Ed Eckenstein had a lot of help from Kim Dang, Xi-Qin Ding, Debbie Graham, Bina Ranebenur, Nanci Barthel, and Carleen Burger who were here on Thursday, and from many other parents who helped by sending treats. THANK YOU ALL!