

## Parents

### Good News

- Katie Maurer (Enid) has been invited to interview for the George Washington Honors Scholarship at Washington & Lee University in Virginia. The scholarship is for full room, board and tuition, valued at \$43,000+ per year; Katie has also been selected as a finalist for the REMS program at the University of Rochester. She is one of 40 candidates from an applicant pool of 600 for the program that will admit 10 students into the 8-year BS/MD early medical scholars program.

Fourteen of our seniors who were named Semifinalists in the **2007 National Merit Scholarship Program** have advanced to the level of Finalist it was announced this week.

Last fall, when these seniors became Semifinalists, it meant that they had the opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,200 awards that will be offered this spring. More than 1.2 million students in over 20,000 high schools entered the 2007 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 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 Samia Afreen (Norman), Joshua Choi (Tulsa), Philip Danser (Edmond), Gabriella Geletzke (Edmond), Michael Henderson (Dale), Sarah Howell (Oklahoma City), Kevin Lewis (Yukon), Brooke Luo (Oklahoma City), Katie Maurer (Enid), Arib Rahman (Norman), Judy Wang (Ponca City), Haofei Wei (Broken Arrow), and Steven Zhang (Oklahoma City).

**Congratulations** to Alex Speir (Bristow, '07) and Sebastain Gould (Kingston, '07) for being selected for the Hefner Initiative-OSSM Award (see Vol. 29, No. 9; October 13, 2006). Melissa Koshy (Broken Arrow, '07) is the alternate. The Hefner family said the decision was extremely difficult due to the high qualifications of all the candidates.

### OSSM Leads the Nation Again

Last February, in its *2006 Advanced Placement Report to the Nation*, the College Board named the OSSM Physics C - Electricity and Magnetism course, the strongest of its kind in the world. In the 2007 Report, released Tuesday, **three** OSSM courses were acclaimed for leading the nation: Physics C - Electricity and Magnetism (again); AP Chemistry; and Physics C: Mechanics. The AP Report says that "these schools lead the nation in helping the widest segment of their total school population achieve an exam grade of 3 or higher in . . ." the three above mentioned courses. OSSM is recognized in the category of "small-size schools (fewer than 300 students in grades 10-12).

In those three examinations, over half of the students who were enrolled in OSSM's courses opted to take the Advanced Placement Exams. They all scored 3 or higher (the majority scoring 5 which is the highest grade attainable) in all three exams. Although OSSM does not offer the actual AP classes that are offered in other high schools, OSSM students are so well prepared by taking OSSM's college level classes that they can excel in these strenuous tests of their knowledge.

In a letter congratulating Dr. Manning, College Board officials said, ". . . the work you are doing of preparing so many students for success in such rigorous curricula is a model for schools worldwide."

Contributing to OSSM's successful showing in the *Report to the Nation* by scoring 3 or above on one, two, or all three of the recognized exams were: Nan Butler (Wellston), Michael Cobbs (Midwest City), Michael Henderson (Dale), Toby McConnell (Wellston), Ed Shalda (Yukon), Eric Hudgins (Pocola), Katie Maurer (Enid), Maggie Qi (Tulsa), Prunil Patel (Tulsa), Judy Wang (Ponca City), Joshua Choi (Tulsa), Philip Danser (Edmond), Sarah Howell (Oklahoma City), Kevin Lewis (Yukon), Matthew Lynch (Collinsville), Joe Meyer (Edmond), Asya Pritsker (Edmond), Arib Rahman (Norman), Axel Saenz (Tulsa), Tim Thomas (Enid), Steven Zhang (Oklahoma City), and Liang Zhang (Edmond).

### Happy Birthday to:

Randy Schroeder	February 12
Hanzi Zhang	February 12
Julia Layne	February 13
Michael Cobbs	February 16
Jared Gipson	February 17

## Counselor's Corner

Applications to the following summer academies are available from Academic Counselor Daisy Hurte.

### **Honors Summer Math Camp**

Texas State University

San Marcos, Texas

June 17 - July 28, 2007

[www.mathworks.txstate.edu/student.htm](http://www.mathworks.txstate.edu/student.htm)

### **The Summer Science Program**

Cary, North Carolina

The curriculum is organized around astronomy research projects. Students will learn Physics and Calculous.

[www.summerscience.org](http://www.summerscience.org)

### **Catalyst**

College of Engineering

Cornell University

Ithaca, New York

[www.engineering.cornell.edu/catalyst](http://www.engineering.cornell.edu/catalyst)

## Congratulations to the Students of the Month for January:

First Floor Boys: C.J. Williams (Barnsdall, '07)

Second Floor Boys: Michael Cobbs (Midwest City, '07)

Third Floor Boys: Axel Saenz (Tulsa, '07)

First Floor Girls: Kelsey Brigance (Poteau, '08)

Second Floor Girls: Connie Liu (Edmond, '08)

Third Floor Girls: Shereen Samadzadeh (Stillwater, '07)

## **Reminder**

Next weekend is a four-day extended weekend (February 17 through 20). The dorm will close at 7:00 on Friday evening and reopen for check in on **TUESDAY** at 3:00 p.m. Students must be checked in before required study begins at 8:00 p.m.

Classes resume on Wednesday morning.

## ***Thank you to . . .***

. . . the students who assisted Suzanne Donnolo in admissions this week by giving tours and hosting shadows: Wyatt Sharber (Wynnewood, '07), Katie Maurer (Enid, '07), Chase Harris (Durant, '08), Curtis Doiron (Midwest City, '08), Tiffany Varughese (Oklahoma City, '08), Alicia Tran (Oklahoma City, '08), Lauren Mathias (Midwest City, '08), Alyssa Sappenfield (Shidler, '08), Chelsea Smith (McAlester, '08), and Crystal Lamptey (Oklahoma City, '08).

## PAOSSM

Dear Parents:

The OSSM Legislative Breakfast will be held on the morning of February 14. We need parent participation so if you would like to help please contact Donna Roberts at [droberts@ossm.edu](mailto:droberts@ossm.edu). Or you can contact us at [mcharris011@cox.net](mailto:mcharris011@cox.net).

Let's all make it a priority to attend the next PAOSSM meeting on February 20, 6:00 p.m. Counselor Daisy Hurte will be our speaker. She will be filling us in on some of the exciting summer programs our kids can take part in. You won't want to miss it!

*Chris & Mack Harris*

## Extraordinary Summer Experience Planned

Alyssa Sappenfield (Shidler, '08) has been accepted for the People to People Student Ambassador Class of 2007. Student ambassadors join to bring the world together through education and friendship. Alyssa submitted letters of recommendation and completed an interview process. She will travel with one of the Tulsa delegations in the program "Exploring Western Europe," and will spend 20 days traveling throughout several countries including Ireland, Wales, England, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. They will experience numerous sightseeing and academic opportunities and one home-stay during the trip.

Some sights and activities include visiting many castles, Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of William Shakespeare, Buckingham Palace, and the Tower of London. They will take a cruise the River Thames, ride on the London Eye, attend a London theatre performance, and meet with a current or former Member of Parliament, see the British Constitution and discuss the respective roles of the House of Commons, the House of Lords and the Monarch. Alyssa will visit the United Kingdom Sailing Academy in Cowes and for three days take a concentrated course on sailing, windsurfing or kayaking.

She will get a chance to study the events of WWII at Le Mémorial de Caen Museum, which documents Hitler's rise to power, Europe's descent into war, the dark years of uncertainty and the effects of D-Day and peace and journey to the coast of Normandy to visit the American Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach. The trip will take her to Paris to see the Arc de Triomphe, the Notre Dame Cathedral, the Louvre, the Eiffel Tower, and the famous artists' quarter of Montmartre and the site of the Battle of the Bulge. She will also visit Rotterdam, the International Court of Justice, the main judicial body of the United Nations, and the Anne Frank House.

**Parents: this is just one example of the of many outstanding summer programs available for your students. Keep watching this newsletter and see past newsletters for Daisy Hurte's updated list of opportunities.**