



### Good News

- Robert Lindsey (Ada) has been accepted by the University of Tulsa and by the Illinois Institute of Technology;
- Ruth Droescher (Norman) has been awarded the Distinguished Scholars Award from Tulane University valued at \$22,000 per year, and has been offered the Golden Oaks Award from Louisiana State University for \$44,000 over four years;
- Emily Dyer (Shawnee) has been admitted to the Colorado School of Mines;
- Keenan Smart (Moore) has been admitted to Drury University, and Tulane University has offered him the Dean's Scholarship of \$22,000 per year;
- Blaine Riggs (Watonga) has been admitted to the Florida Institute of Technology;
- Ruth Droescher (Norman), Robert Lindsey (Ada) and Aniq Rahman (Norman) have been invited to interview for the Camras Scholarship at Illinois Institute of Technology.

### Math Success Continues

After the second round of the Oklahoma Mathematics League competition, OSSM is still in first place by a margin of six points. Jenks High Schools is second, and Holland Hall, Norman High School, and Norman North High School are tied for third.

Jason Chen (Edmond, '05), Nick Eckenstein (Oklahoma City, '05), Michael Liang (Tulsa, '05), Aniq Rahman (Norman, '05), Kjell Sawyer (Blanchard, '05), Kevin Woodson (Norman, '05), and Dafang Zhang (Tulsa, '05) had perfect scores in contest #2.

In addition to those seven young men, the following students are listed by the League as being cumulative high scorers: Adam Dixon (Bartlesville, '05), Keenan Smart (Moore, '05), Daniel Freno (Oklahoma City, '05), Mustafa Zorlu (Oklahoma City, '05), Caleb Li (Edmond, '05), Amber Loftis (Bartlesville, '06), Mary Anne Peters (Purcell, '05), and Matt Stanley (Edmond, '05).

### Thank you to . . .

. . . Ilya Sluch (Stillwater, '06), Adam Hemphill (Forgan, '06), Jonathan Francis (Pocola, '06), Juno Abraham (Muskogee, '06), Coreen Hays (Hollis, '06) and Camilla Rollins (Cashion, '06) for giving tours of the campus to visitors this week.

### F.Y.I.

The *Fine Arts Night* that was planned for Monday, January 24, has been postponed. The choir will perform and art work will be displayed at another date later in the semester.

### PAOSSM (www.paossm.org)

The next meeting of the PAOSSM will be held on Monday evening, January 17, at 6:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be the Academic Counselor, Mrs. Daisy Hurte. Mrs. Hurte will be presenting information on summer opportunities including an extensive list of program links.

In addition, we will be voting on the drafted by-law changes that were distributed with last week's newsletter and discussing the rest of the events for the spring.

If you have any questions, please email us at [paossm@ecktec.com](mailto:paossm@ecktec.com).

### Dear Parents:

I will be out of the office next week, so this newsletter will not be published on Friday, January 21. Look for your next *OSSM Parents Weekly* the following week: January 28, 2005.

*Donna Roberts*

### Attention Senior Parents:

Representatives from **Porter Graduation and More** will be in the residence hall on Monday evening, January 17, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. to take orders for regalia (caps and gowns), graduation announcements, and other paraphernalia. Every senior will need to order a cap and gown for the commencement ceremony, but all other items are optional. Your students will be provided with catalogs and order forms to bring home over this extended weekend.

Payment (or a deposit) is required at the time the order is placed. Porter will accept cash, checks, money orders, VISA, or Mastercard.

### Happy Birthday to:

Ilya Sluch	January 19
Andrew Hammonds	January 21
Dr. Farideh Samadzadeh	January 22
James Phan	January 22
David Walker	January 23
Hallie England	January 30



## Our Awesome Counselors

**Mrs. Daisy Hurte** has been counseling OSSM students for 15 years. She joined the Inaugural Faculty the summer before the Inaugural Class arrived and, since then, has been a mother, guide, confidant, and helping hand to over 800 OSSM students.

Dr. Manning hired Mrs. Hurte from Millwood Schools, where Mrs. Hurte had been a high school counselor for 17 years, and Head of the Guidance Department for ten years. Before her time at Millwood, Mrs. Hurte was a counselor at Oklahoma City's John Marshall High School, and taught English and business courses in the Oklahoma City Schools, and at South Oklahoma City Junior College. She earned a BS in Business Education and Administration from Rust College in Mississippi, and her Masters in Guidance and Counseling from Central State University (now the University of Central Oklahoma).

Mrs. Hurte says her job at OSSM includes three main areas: guidance, testing, and academics. She usually has a line of juniors outside her office, waiting for a chance to talk with their counselor about their grades and to get some direction from Mrs. Hurte about how to plan and organize their studies and their study time. Last year Mrs. Hurte instituted a new program called *Focus Time*. Juniors put aside five hours a week of their own choosing (in addition to regular, required hours) to find a quiet place to study.

Both juniors and seniors seek Mrs. Hurte's assistance when their grades are suffering. By working with Dr. Lease, the faculty, and the individual student, Mrs. Hurte does whatever is necessary to help every student succeed. She also coordinates and facilitates all standardized testing: the PSAT, SAT, ACT, and Advanced Placement Exams. Over the years Mrs. Hurte has spent countless hours researching summer programs for students. She advises students and parents about programs that are right for the interests of the student, encourages students to apply to programs that match their needs, and helps them with the application process.

How does she keep up with all that? Mrs. Hurte says that "the key to my job at OSSM is to meet with every student on a weekly basis. Keeping in constant contact and communication with my students is the essence of my work."

Mrs. Hurte and her husband Billy live in Oklahoma City and try to get away a couple of times a year to the Gulf Coast. Mr. Hurte is Athletic Director for Oklahoma City Schools. Her daughter Tori and her husband have three children, Christopher, 14; Christian, 11; and Azhia, who is four-years-old. It is an understatement to say that Mrs. Hurte dotes on her grandchildren! Her other daughter Clarissa is married to Mike Shelton who just this past fall won his first election to the Oklahoma State House of Representatives.

The Hurtes are very active in their church activities – Mrs. Hurte is in the choir which performs at various churches around Oklahoma City on weekends. She also says she will read with pleasure any magazine she can get her hands on. She still enjoys cooking, but says her hours at OSSM don't allow much time for many other extra-curricular activities. Mrs. Hurte says she heartily agrees with her colleague Dr. Dodd who often says that "working for OSSM is not a job – it's a way of life."

**Mr. Gary Salwierak** came on board in June of 1991, just in time to begin working with the Inaugural Class and their families toward making applications to the colleges of their choice. If you add this year's graduates-to-be, it will bring the number of OSSM students he has guided toward making the *right* choice to 842. Before coming to OSSM, he had been Admission Counselor, Director of Admission and Financial Aid, and then Director of College Advancement at St. Gregory's College in Shawnee. He brought with him a wealth of contacts in a network of admissions directors at colleges and universities across the United States. He has added numerous associates to his network since he has worked with OSSM students, and in the fall semester we see the fruits of his efforts when admissions officials from institutions from every part of the country visit our campus to talk with OSSM students.

Mr. Salwierak willingly works with every senior and his or her family when it comes time to apply to college. His knowledge of the programs offered at various universities is very valuable information when students are struggling to make up their minds about where they want to study. When the applications are ready to be sent off, Mr. Salwierak is there to help insure that deadlines are met and the application is complete.

Mr. Salwierak's own college experience was at Marymount College where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in speech and drama, and was an instructor of speech and theater. He participated in post graduate studies in secondary school guidance and counseling at St. Mary's University. He is a member of many professional organizations (there's that networking again) including the National Association of College Admissions Counselors, the Great Plains Association of College Admissions Counselors, and the Oklahoma Association of Financial Aid Administrators. He is an active member of the community of Shawnee, as a board member of the Central Oklahoma Juvenile Treatment Center, Campfire Girls, and the American Red Cross. Like his counterpart Mrs. Hurte, Mr. Salwierak says his time to stay involved in community activities is somewhat limited because of his commitment to OSSM. He spends many weekends working with Mrs. Hurte in SAT or ACT testing, driving students to off-campus activities, and presenting workshops for parents about the college admission process. But he has stayed involved in his favorite volunteer activity -- community theater. He is a member of the Shawnee Little Theatre, Carpenter Square Theatre, and the Pottawatomie County Production Company, and has starred in such productions as *Barnum*, *Into the Woods*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird* in theaters in Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, and Arkansas. He has directed musicals such as *Annie*, *They're Playing Our Song*, and *Man of LaMancha*.

Mr. Salwierak's wife Marian is a professor at St. Gregory's, and the Salwierak's have four children and five grandchildren. Kathy teaches at Shawnee High School and is married to the school's head wrestling coach (parents of three of those grandchildren). Daughter Tracy is an attorney for the Henry Law Firm and she and her basketball coach/math teacher husband have two children. Their son Stephen is a senior political science/government major at Notre Dame who plans on attending law school and pursuing a career in politics, and their youngest child, Ashley, is a senior at Shawnee High School and is bound for Oklahoma State University to major in veterinary medicine.

Of his work at OSSM, Mr. Salwierak says, "Beyond the daily dynamics of being involved in a great program, with a great faculty, great facilities, 'AWESOME' students and supportive parents, the real reward is knowing that I was able to have just a slight influence in making a difference in their lives and opportunities for future success."