



Good News

- Aniq Rahman (Norman) has been admitted to Case Western;
- Daniel Brigrance (Poteau) has been accepted by the University of Tulsa.

Presidential Scholar Candidates Named

The Presidential Scholars Program is identified as "... a national program to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors in the areas of academic and artistic success, leadership, and school and community involvement." Six OSSM seniors have qualified as candidates for the 2005 Program and have been invited to apply for semi-finalist standing. Congratulations to Jason Chen (Edmond), Chris Crowe (Ardmore), David Eyster (Ponca City), Michael Liang (Tulsa), Matt Stanley (Edmond), and Sarah Stark (Edmond). Approximately 2,600 students from across the nation have qualified to become candidates.

Selection of candidates is made based on SAT and ACT scores. Test scores in each state are reviewed, and the total SAT score is compared to the ACT Sum of Scores. In each state, scores are ranked from high to low, and approximately 20 females and 20 males are selected from each state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and from families of US citizens living broad.

A review committee evaluates candidates on their academic achievement, personal characteristics, leadership and service activities, and an analysis of their essay. Approximately 500 semifinalists will be selected, and, in April, the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars will announce the names of 121 students selected to become Presidential Scholars for the year 2005. They will be invited to attend an expense paid trip to Washington, DC, in June, for National Recognition Week, to meet with government officials, educators, authors, musicians, scientists and other accomplished individuals.

Two past OSSM students, Yvonne Shay (Bartlesville, '92), and Karen Robinson (Shawnee, '98) have become Presidential Scholars in the years they graduated. We wish our candidates the best of luck while their applications are being reviewed over the next months, and congratulations on being named candidates in this very prestigious program.

PAOSSM (www.paossm.org)

We are collecting pictures to use in a slideshow for the senior party that will be held the night before graduation. Pictures featuring current seniors at OSSM events and during "ordinary" times (e.g., studying, playing ball outside, dorm meetings, doing things with friends) during the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 school years will be appreciated.

Senior Parents: please send three pictures of your student growing up, and a current yearbook-type picture (does not have to be the OSSM gown picture).

For more information, please contact Nanci Barthel (Katie, '05) at 405/275-5848 or barthel@charter.net. You may email pictures, bring them on CD, or bring hard copies which will be scanned and returned to you. Be sure to label clearly anything you need returned. Please send your pictures by the end of March.

Fine Arts classes for the spring semester will begin next week. Students have the opportunity to choose from choir, orchestra, photography, guitar*, and flyfishing on Tuesday night; choreography, Yoga, or drawing on Wednesday night; and ballroom dance on Thursday night.

Classes will run through the first full week in April (approximately ten classes) and students are only allowed two excused absences to receive credit.

*The guitar class is only for seniors who have already met their Fine Arts credit requirement.

Happy Birthday to:

Luke Nowlin

February 3



Counselor's Corner

Families should review and discuss the status of all college scholarship (if appropriate) applications submitted, and then prioritize college choices and advise me of your rankings. It is that time in the admissions cycle when universities might call for additional information and, knowing the family's top choice and commitment to matriculate can be extremely important.

Honors College applications to OU, OSU, and TU should be submitted in the immediate future.

Engineering majors planning to attend OU can download the individual departmental scholarship forms on the OU College of Engineering website.

Families applying for financial assistance should have registered for a PIN by now. If not, you should do so as quickly as possible. You cannot complete the FAFSA on the web without a PIN number.

The Pre-Application Worksheet for filing the 2005-2006 FAFSA can be downloaded from the web at www.fafsa.gov.

Gary Salwierak

FYI

Senior t-shirts are available for order for \$8.75 each (payment is due at the time the order is placed). Students can order a shirt through Mrs. Johanna Lee. Checks or cash only with checks payable to OSSMPA (the Parents Association).

Honor Long Overdue

After forty years, OSSM's own Dr. Jack Herron, Jr., Outreach Coordinator, was honored by his alma mater, Oklahoma State University, as a member of the 1964-65 Cowboy basketball team that won the university's only Big Eight Conference basketball championship. In 1965, due to budgetary concerns, the team was not presented with championship rings. But OSU athletic director Harry Birdwell and basketball coach Eddie Sutton mended that at a banquet held in the team's honor last weekend. Dr. Herron is now proudly wearing his championship ring. Also, the team was honored during half-time of the OSU-Baylor game on Saturday.

Congratulations, Dr. Herron, after a 40-year wait!

Thank you to . . .

. . . all the students who helped Mrs. Hurte present a program about summer opportunities for students by making presentations to the OSSM Parents Association regarding the programs they attended last summer: Tracy Bernard (Norman, '05), Jason Chen (Edmond, '05), Chris Crowe (Ardmore, '05), Annalee Embry (Ponca City, '05), Robert Haussman (Harrah, '05), Emily Kish (Weatherford, '05), Marissa Krinsky (Noble, '05), Brian Lee (Muskogee, '05), Michael Liang (Tulsa, '05), Aggie Malatinszky (Edmond, '05), Chris Nettles (Stilwell, '05), Thomas Nguyen (Oklahoma City, '05), Krushangi Patel (Oklahoma City, '05), Sarah Radke (Edmond, '05), Aniq Rahman (Norman, '05), Blaine Riggs (Watonga, '05), and Krista Owens (Achille, '06);

. . . Morgan Boes (Owasso, '06), Amber Loftis (Bartlesville, '06), Zadora Hightower (Ada, '06), John Davidson (Sallisaw, '06), and Mike Ding (Edmond, '06) for allowing themselves to be shadowed by prospective students;

. . . and to Chris Smith (Claremore, '06) for giving a tour of the campus for Ms. Donnolo this week.

2004 Grad Marches for the President

Zane Nitzel, who graduated from OSSM last year and is now a cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point, had quite an honor last week. Zane was one of the cadets chosen to be a saber bearer in President Bush's Inaugural Parade. He had to try out to win a chance to participate, and he is quoted in an article in the SUNDAY OKLAHOMAN (January 16, 2005) saying that the inspection was tough. Everything had to be perfect – marching technique, uniform, even his hair cut . . . and he is honored to be on the team.

"Drilling has always been kind of fun to me," he is quoted as saying. "It's like being the best of the best."

Math Exam Slated

Next Tuesday, February 1, *all students* will sit for the American Mathematics Competition exam from 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. The AMC can lead to other, more selective math contests, even all the way to membership on the USA team that is sent to the International Mathematics Olympiad. Students who score 100 or above, or finish in the top 5%, will be invited to take the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME) in March.