



Join us for OSSM Wednesdays!

Students and faculty are enjoying the time every Wednesday from 12:40 p.m. until 1:10 p.m. when we gather for *OSSM Wednesday*, a time when we come together as a community to hear special guests, and experience some fine entertainment by our own talented students. Some Wednesdays are designated as time for just special announcements and reminders, but usually some kind of program is presented.

Parents are welcome to join us. On October 13, Dr. Mike Anderson, President of the Presbyterian Health Foundation (and long-time OSSM supporter) will be the guest speaker. On October 20, Tracy Bernard (Norman, '05), Michael Liang (Tulsa, '05), and Aniq Rahman (Norman, '05) will talk about the research they did at Baylor University last summer. On November 3, Rabbi David Packman will talk about the Middle East. Dr. Scott Douglas will discuss Music & Engineering on November 11, and Dr. R. Murali Krishna will talk about *STRESS* on November 17.

The OSSM Community Orchestra will perform on Wednesday, December 1.

Thank you to . . .

. . . all the students who helped on Thursday when the Dean McGee Eye Institute and the Oklahoma League for the Blind held a seminar on campus. Many of the participants were elderly and sight impaired and needed assistance. Preston Cofield (Oklahoma City, '05) and Tuan Tran (Oklahoma City, '06) provided golf cart transportation on the rainy morning, while Aubrey Fike (Glenpool, '05), Katie Barthel (Shawnee, '05) and Angela Sun (Norman, '05) helped greet the guests at the gazebo. At lunchtime, Morgan Boes (Owasso, '06), Otis Chodosh (Edmond, '06), Katie Southard (Ponca City, '06), BranDee Weese (Choctaw, '06), Sarah Kassis (Oklahoma City, '05), Amber Shipman (Glenpool, '06), Lucy Liu (Edmond, '06), Becky McMillan (Tulsa, '06), Kadi Walker (Duncan, '06), and Sarah Copley (Marlow, '06), assisted the guests in finding their boxed lunches and opening soft drinks as they answered questions about OSSM;

. . . Jonathan Xia (Edmond, '06), Rachel Cannon (Braman, '06), BranDee Weese (Choctaw, '06), and Lucy Liu (Edmond, '06) for allowing themselves to be shadowed by prospective students this week.

Physicist/Artist Lectures

At a special assembly on Thursday morning, the OSSM community was treated to a lecture by Dr. Bulent I. Atalay, Professor of Physics. Dr. Atalay, a scientist and accomplished artist, spoke on the *Integration of Science and Arts*.

Dr. Atalay earned a Ph.D. in nuclear physics in 1971, from Georgetown University where he had previously earned an M.S. in nuclear physics and a B.S. in physics, mathematics, and philosophy. In 1973, he was awarded an M.A. "by decree" from Oxford University where he was involved in post-doctoral research. He has also researched at the University of California-Berkeley, Princeton University, and the Institute for Advanced Study.

A physics professor for over 30 years, and a member of the American Physical Society, Dr. Atalay is an expert in several topics of modern physics including alternate sources of energy. Extremely knowledgeable in high technology techniques as they apply to archaeology, he is a frequent lecturer at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

As an artist, he works in oils and lithographs. His work is displayed in Buckingham Palace, the White House, and in the OSSM Art Gallery on the second floor of Lincoln School. This was Dr. Atalay's second visit to OSSM in three years. We welcome and appreciate his interest and support.

Jennifer Nguyen (Oklahoma City, '06) presented an expertly performed piano solo of Carl Koelling's *Hungary*, which was highly complimented by Dr. Atalay in his opening remarks. Many thanks to Jennifer and the other students who are willing to share their talents at these special events.

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● Thank you to those of you who have made the effort to ●
● send in a \$40.00 sponsorship for the 2005 *Lyceum* (the ●
● OSSM yearbook). We've had a pretty good response ●
● since the forms were sent home two weeks ago. But, ●
● we've barely made a dent! ●
● Please keep this effort in mind as you are out and about ●
● in your community where you might find a sponsor or ●
● sponsors. You can contact Donna Roberts for additional ●
● forms or to have a form sent to you electronically. ●
●.....

Happy Birthday to:	
Coach Armstrong	October 12
Anh Tran	October 14
Rachel Cannon	October 23

Counselor's Corner

OSSM's National Merit Semifinalists will be treated to a dinner at Spaghetti Warehouse next Monday night, October 11, by the University of Oklahoma National Scholars Office. Students will return to campus in time for 8:00 p.m. study hour.

Senior Parents: your students should complete the information to receive an electronic PIN in preparation for completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) due in January. Families should go to www.pin.ed.gov to complete this process.

It is also time for seniors who will be applying to certain out-of-state colleges to register a CSS Financial Aid PROFILE. Go to www.collegeboard.com and the "How to Pay for College" link on the parent section of the website. Most of the top tier, private colleges require the PROFILE and seniors applying for Early Decision or Early Action should register as soon as possible. Colleges that require the PROFILE are listed by state.

Additional college representative visits:

Northwestern:

Wednesday, October 20

Oklahoma City University:

Thursday, October 21

OSSM Open House

OSSM will be hosting an Open House for sophomore (10th grade) students on Saturday, October 23, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Invitations have been sent to all of the interested students in our database as well as various lists that we have compiled of potential interested students.

The program will begin at 2:00 p.m. and include an information session, a tour of our academic and residential facilities, and ample time to visit with students from our junior and senior classes. We will be asking our junior and senior students to act as ambassadors/tour guides for this important event.

If you know of any students/parents who might want to attend, please have them R.S.V.P. by October 15, by providing us with their student's name, grade, high school, and the names of all family members who will be attending. We will be hosting a Special Open House for 8th and 9th graders in May.

R.S.V.P. by Friday, October 15

By email: sdonnolo@ossm.edu

By phone: (405) 521-6439*

*If leaving a message, provide us with your phone number in case we need to verify spelling of names.

W.P.I. Strives Program, by Andrew Hammonds

I spent one week in Worcester, Massachusetts, more specifically, Worcester Polytechnic Institute's (WPI) Strive Program, during my summer hiatus from OSSM. I had never been to Massachusetts, or any of the northeastern "colonies" which have been so important to our history, so of course I was excited going into the program.

Although I got there three or four hours early, things were exciting from the start, especially the part with me being used as free labor since I was there early. However, as soon as everyone else arrived, names were learned and roommates were assigned. I happened to be placed with one of the residents of Worcester attending the program, Onwike (or at least that is what I shall refer to him as since I never could say, let alone spell, his proper name) who is originally from Nigeria. I still remember the story he told me about his father the first night. He said his father was a soldier in the revolution that took place in Nigeria not long ago. Onwike told me that even between all of the fighting and bloodshed, his father taught himself physics, calculus, and all sorts of higher level material. It amazed me, one of those stories of the individual overcoming adversity, with the help of a strong will and hard work.

Over the course of the week, I participated in a variety of labs including a forensics lab, where everyone had to examine "evidence" to solve a mock murder; a mechanical engineering lab, where the focus was to build a room sized "ball maze" with the cooperation of everyone else participating in the program; and working with a group of peers to design an effective way to aid the evacuation of mobility-impaired persons out of a high-rise building in case it were to catch on fire.

Although some of the programs were a little bit of work and the above mentioned programs had to be done in only one week (not to mention more rap than I would ever care to listen to in my whole life, and scrambled eggs that made OSSM's food seem like a delicacy), the program was really a great experience. I was able to meet a lot of interesting people with great diversity in backgrounds like Onwike, and it also taught me a very important lesson. I learned that it doesn't matter how hard or difficult something seems, if one works their absolute hardest, something is bound to work. Also, I gained a little bit of confidence from this trip, confidence I can fit in anywhere if I try. I figure that if I can fit in with my "unique" peers from the Strives Program, I can get along with anybody.

So do I recommend this program? You had better believe it. It is a good program to try because you will meet many students with diverse backgrounds and it's really a "fun" kind of learning that isn't as stressful as our OSSM variety. So if you know you're not doing anything next summer, consider a summer program somewhere to broaden your horizons and, if at all possible, consider the Strives Program at WPI.