



National Merit Names 13

OSSM Semifinalists

The names of approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in the 50th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program were announced this week. Thirteen OSSM seniors were among them. Congratulations to Jason Chen (Edmond), Nicholas Eckenstein (Oklahoma City), Annalee Embry (Ponca City), Sarah Kassis (Oklahoma City), Rayus Kuplicki (Tulsa), Michael Liang (Tulsa), Agnes Malatinszky (Edmond), Nadia Sebastian (Oklahoma City), Matt Stanley (Edmond), Sarah Stark (Edmond), Angela Sun (Norman), Kevin Woodson (Tulsa), and Dafang Zhang (Tulsa).

Being named a Semifinalist means that a student will have an opportunity to continue in the 2005 National Merit Scholarship competition for some 8,200 awards worth over \$33.9 million, that will be offered next spring. More than 1.3 million students in over 21,000 U.S. high schools entered the 2005 Merit Program when they were juniors by taking the 2003 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). 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 Semifinalists in each state is proportional to its percentage of the national total of graduating seniors.

To become Finalists, Semifinalists must have an outstanding high school academic record, be endorsed and recommended by their principal, and submit SAT scores that confirm their earlier qualifying test performance. They must submit a detailed application that includes a self-descriptive essay and information about the student's participation and leadership in school and community activities.

Counselor's Corner

Please note the following additions to the roster of college representative visits in September, and the dates for October visits:

Wednesday, September 22:

West Point Academy (candidate interviews)

Thursday, September 23:

OU School of Petroleum Engineering

Friday, October 1:

Drury University

Newman College

Tuesday, October 5:

Ottawa University

Wednesday, October 13

Carnegie Mellon University (applicant interviews)

Yale (Regional Recruitment Meeting)

Monday, October 25:

University of Pennsylvania

Wednesday, October 27:

Sewanee (University of the South)

Thursday, October 28:

Middlebury College

For a complete list of college visits, please see Professor Gleason's page on the OSSM website.

Happy Birthday to:

Mr. Gregg Madden	September 20
Camilla Rollins	September 21
Prof. Charlie Dillard	September 24
Prof. Daryl Schwerdtfeger	September 24

OMRF Researcher Speaks

At this week's OSSM Wednesday Assembly, the guest lecturer was Dr. Kenneth Hensley of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF). Dr. Hensley talked about the research he does at OMRF in the Foundation's Free Radical Biology and Aging Research Program. His work is aimed at gaining further understanding of diseases such as Alzheimer's and Lou Gehrig's Disease (ALS). Dr. Hensley is a graduate of the University of Kentucky where he earned two BS degrees, one in biology (with honors) and one in chemistry (with honors). He earned a PhD in chemistry in 1995.

Fozoh Saliki (Stillwater, '05) opened the assembly with a beautifully performed piano solo of Chopin's *Waltz in A Flat*, and Sarah Kassis did the honors of introducing our guest. Thanks to them both.

And, thanks too, to Dr. Jan Post for arranging for Dr. Hensley's visit.

Thank you to . . .

. . . the students who were a great help to Ms. Donnolo with a mailing for the Admissions Department: juniors Nancy Chen (Tulsa), Otis Chodosh (Edmond), Zoheb Hajiyan (Anadarko), Zadora Hightower (Ada), Amber Loftis (Bartlesville), Joy Lomheim (Newalla), Becky McMillan (Tulsa), Luke Nowlin (Grove), Jenny Rooth (Shawnee), Nozlee Samadzadeh (Stillwater), Amber Shipman (Glenpool), Ilya Sluch (Stillwater), Sananda Som (Enid), Katie Southard (Ponca City), Afsaneh Talai (Norman), Jared Vanderford (Burns Flat), Rachel Weng (Edmond), Benjamin Williams (Duncan), and Jordan Yozzo (Tulsa); and seniors Mary Moon (Alex), Blaine Riggs (Watonga), and Destiny Smith-Stout (Blackwell);

. . . Nancy Burger (Oklahoma City, '05) and Justin Colvard (Hartshorne, '05) for attending the quarterly OSSM Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday. They both did a great job describing the OSSM experience and conversing with board members;

. . . and to Katie Barthel (Shawnee, '05), Ross Hallren (Fairview, '05), Bob Pillow (Idabel, '06), Blaine Riggs (Watonga, '05), Amber Shipman (Glenpool, '06), Katie Southard (Ponca City, '06), and Patrick VerSteege (Cheyenne, '06) for getting up extra early on Tuesday morning to join Dr. Manning and Lissa Blaschke (OSSM Director of Development) at the annual Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce breakfast held at the OU Health Center.

Note to Parents: Students are invited to participate in community events by virtue of their availability (we do not take students out of class to attend such functions), and by their willingness to participate. Every effort is made to include students who wish to participate in special community activities.



More math faculty . . . continued from the September 10, 2004 newsletter . . .

Professor Jack Gleason joined the faculty in July, 1991, and was named interim Dean of Students in 1992, a position he has held every since except for a one-year sabbatical he took last year to spend on the mathematics faculty at the Naval Academy Preparatory School where he was a student in 1973. He is teaching Calculus II, in addition to his responsibilities as Dean of Students.

Professor Gleason is a native of Auburn, New York, and earned his Bachelor's degree in mathematics (magna cum laude) at the University of Utah, and his MS in meteorology and oceanography at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. Both degrees were fully funded by the Navy.

Prior to undertaking a second career in education, Professor Gleason served in the US Navy for 22 years: eight years as an enlisted weather observer and forecaster, six as a line officer in ships, and eight as a science specialist. During his years in the Navy, Professor Gleason and his family lived in Australia, California, Japan, Utah, New Jersey, Italy, and Maryland. His naval duties also gave him the opportunity to work in Scotland, Iceland, Spain, Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, Singapore, Iran, Thailand, Somalia, Djibouti, and Kenya.

The professor began his teaching experience as an undergraduate at the University of Utah, where he had minor, part-time employment grading papers, and working in the "math labs" and as a teaching assistant. He also taught college math for naval personnel in foreign countries and he was appointed to the faculty at the Naval Academy, teaching atmospheric thermodynamics, and ocean dynamics in the oceanography department.

Professor Gleason is married to the former Bonnie Muldoon, also of Auburn, New York. The Gleason's have two grown daughters, Andrea of Pahoehoe, Hawaii, and Johanna, who lives in Oxford, England, and is the mother of the Gleason's seven-year-old granddaughter, Katherine. Beyond interests in family, Professor Gleason enjoys all sorts of cooking, reading (and re-reading) "great books" and books about "great books", historical fiction, game fishing, and volunteer work for the US Naval Academy. Mrs. Gleason is a "fitness nut" and enjoys the international community in Oklahoma City, and spends time visiting older folks and folks without families.

Professor Daryl Schwerdtfeger teaches PreCalculus I and III this semester. He has been on the OSSM faculty since the beginning of the 2000 fall semester when he and his wife, Liz, joined the OSSM family – Mrs. Schwerdtfeger as our Assistant Resident Supervisor.

Prior to coming to OSSM, Professor Schwerdtfeger taught junior high and high school mathematics, computer science, chemistry, and earth science at Davidson and Burlington Public Schools. He was the Academic Team Coach at Burlington for 12 years and, in 1999, was selected as All-State Coach of the Year by the Oklahoma Academic Coaches Association. He has a BSEd in mathematics and chemistry, and an MEd in guidance and counseling from Northwestern Oklahoma State University. While still in high school, Professor Schwerdtfeger started his own farming operation northeast of Alva, Oklahoma. That farm has grown to 380 acres growing wheat and alfalfa, and 260 acres of grass where they raise about 90 cow/calf pairs. The professor was injured in a farm accident in 1989. He and Liz have been married for almost 27 years. Their son Eric graduated from OSSM in 1999, and earned a BS in mathematics and a BS in chemistry from MIT. Eric is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in chemistry at Texas A&M. Eric's sister, Sondra, is a senior psychology major at Northwestern Oklahoma State University and is planning to go on to graduate school.

Professor Schwerdtfeger says he enjoys deer hunting (he introduced our Dr. Liu to the activity by taking him on his first deer hunt), most kinds of music, reading when he has time, and keeping up with current events through newspapers, the internet, and news magazines. He says that the "best thing about teaching is seeing your students succeed. I keep in touch with many of my former students."

One of those former students is OSSM's own, Professor Tony Cornforth whose profile is next!

Professor Tony Cornforth is the newest member of the math department having joined OSSM last January at the beginning of the 2004 spring semester. He is teaching Calculus I this semester.

Professor Cornforth is a native of Burlington, Oklahoma. His high school math teacher was Daryl Schwerdtfeger. Professor Cornforth and Professor Schwerdtfeger are now colleagues in the OSSM math department.

Professor Cornforth has an MS in mathematics from the University of Oklahoma. While in graduate school he also served as a teaching assistant for pre calculus and calculus courses. Professor Cornforth also has a BS in mathematics, with a minor in physical science, and a BS in mathematics education from Southwestern Oklahoma State University where he graduated summa cum laude.

Prior to joining the faculty here in Oklahoma City, the professor was the calculus instructor at the OSSM Regional Center at Ardmore, where he taught AP Calculus BC, and organized and led in-service activities for area high school teachers on teaching mathematics using technology. This past summer, he ran a number of math workshops for middle school students from across the state here on the Oklahoma City campus.

When Professor Cornforth is not working he loves being a full time dad. He and his wife, Amy, have two little girls – Emily who is two years old, and Aubrey, 10 months old. Currently Emily enjoys riding her tricycle, being read to, coloring, pretend cooking, and watching VeggieTales. Aubrey is making the transition from baby food to table food and from crawling to walking. He admits that having two young children doesn't allow them time for many hobbies. When they can, he and Amy enjoy watching sports and spending lots of time with family and friends.

Dr. Manning and adjunct faculty member, **Dr. Frank Wang** round off the mathematics faculty. Dr. Manning teaches one section of PreCalculus II, and Dr. Wang teaches Abstract Algebra. Dr. Wang is former Chairman of the Board of the Saxon Publishing Company of Norman, a company that specialized in mathematics and phonics textbooks for grades kindergarten through high school. A graduate of Norman High School (Dr. Dave Drennan, long time OSSM trustee, was his math teacher) he received an undergraduate degree in mathematics at Princeton University. When he graduated in 1986, Dr. Wang was one of only 18 students chosen for a National Science Foundation graduate fellowship to study pure mathematics. He received his PhD at MIT where he studied under Professor Harold Stark. His thesis is in the area of algebraic number theory.