



### Good News

- Seth Storie (Claremore) has been admitted to the University of Missouri, Rolla.

### Research at OMRF

by Michael Henderson (Dale, '07)

This summer I volunteered for a research mentorship under Dr. Stephen Jackson\*\* at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation in the Molecular Immunogenetics lab, chaired by J. Donald Capra, MD. I went through a rigorous interview process, including a paper application and a presentation. I was fortunate enough to gain acceptance into the program and performed research for eight weeks over the summer, averaging forty hours each week and I am hoping to continue working with Dr. Jackson during this school year. My research involves fundamental immunology pertaining to the behavioral patterns of various cells in the immune system, more specifically B-cells. I am studying how they can be phenotypically classified using key protein markers. By finding certain populations expressing distinct markers I hope to further distinguish these cells. I am qualifying patterns of expression that are associated with cells involved in many autoimmune diseases. This will enhance the current understanding of many autoimmune diseases such as lupus and leukemia, possibly enabling us to target harmful cells and cure these debilitating and often deadly diseases. I strongly recommend the program to any interested students and advise them to speak with Mrs. Hurte if they are interested.

**\*\*Dr. Jackson and Michael, along with two of their OSSM colleagues, Kim Dike (Edmond, '07), and Nathan Roy (Choctaw, '07) presented an abbreviated version of their research presentation on Tuesday for the Health Center Public Relations Council. The members were awed and amazed by the students and by their mentor.**

#### PAOSSM

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

A few statistics:

At the September 4, 2006, PAOSSM meeting there were. . .

. . . 35 junior parents, representing 22 juniors. That's 31% of juniors;

. . . 20 senior parents, representing 12 seniors. That's 19% of seniors. (Seven of those 20 are on the PAOSSM Board.)

To the rest of you: are you going to let these few people have *ALL* the fun? And, if you ask those who have pitched right in, they'll tell you it *IS* fun.

So get involved! You'll be ever so glad you did – and so will your student. Trust me!

Chris & Mack Harris

### Counselor's Corner

Thanks to those parents who have been able to visit with several college representatives that have visited OSSM thus far. Please take advantage of the *Special Opportunities* coming up in the next couple of weeks:

MIT Information Session

Monday, September 25, 7:00 p.m.

OSSM's Kirkpatrick Auditorium

University of Pennsylvania

Tuesday, September 26, 5:00 p.m.

Vanderbilt University

Monday, October 2, 5:30 p.m.

University of Chicago

Tuesday, October 10, 3:30 p.m.

Yale Information Session

Wednesday, October 11, 7:00 p.m.

OSSM's Kirkpatrick Auditorium

Junior and senior parents are encouraged to attend the MIT and Yale presentations to learn, first-hand, about the intricacies of the admission and financial aid process – and perhaps pick up a few tips concerning the top tier universities.

The representatives from Chicago, Penn, and Vanderbilt look forward to speaking with OSSM parents, so please take advantage of this special opportunity provided for you. The one-on-one visit in the Great Hall is much more beneficial than the general session hotel venues.

### Thank you to . . .

. . . Anastasiya Austin (Claremore, '07) for giving a tour to a prospective parent;

. . . Kelsey Brigance (Poteau, '08), Renee Cheng (Tuttle, '08), and Gabrielle Chen (Edmond, '08) for allowing prospective students to shadow them this week;

. . . Seth Storie (Claremore, '07), Michael Henderson (Dale, '07), and Maggie Qi (Tulsa, '07) for helping Suzanne Donnolo when a group of middle school children visited this week.

### Happy Birthday to:

Cassi Pinion

September 25

Won Hong

September 29



# Introducing 3/5ths of the Mathematics Faculty

## Professor Daryl Schwerdtfeger

Professor Daryl Schwerdtfeger teaches PreCalculus II this semester. He has been on the OSSM faculty since August of 2000 when he and his wife, Liz, joined the OSSM family - Mrs. Schwerdtfeger as our Assistant Resident Hall Supervisor. The Schwerdtfegers live on first floor of the boy's dorm.

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 nearly 29 years. Their son Eric graduated from OSSM in 1999, earned a BS in mathematics and a BS in chemistry from MIT, and is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in chemistry at Texas A&M. Their daughter Sondra graduated from Northwestern Oklahoma State University in December 2005, with a degree in psychology. She is working on a second bachelor's degree while applying to graduate programs.

Professor Schwerdtfeger enjoys deer hunting (he introduced Dr. Liu to this sport a few years ago), most kinds of music, reading, keeping up with current events, and knitting (while watching sports or news on TV). 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.

## Professor Tony Cornforth

Professor Tony Cornforth joined OSSM in January of 2004. He is teaching PreCalculus III and Differential Equations this semester.

Born and raised in Burlington, Oklahoma, where Professor Schwerdtfeger taught math, Daryl Schwerdtfeger was Tony Cornforth's high school math teacher, and they 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, teaching and assisting both precalculus 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.

When Professor Cornforth is not working, he loves being a full time dad. He and his wife, Amy, have three daughters. Emily (4) enjoys Pre-Kindergarten, playing with her puppies, and anything Disney Princess. Aubrey (2) enjoys dressing up, watching VeggieTales and doing everything she sees Emily do. Katy (1) enjoys baths, eating whatever she finds on the floor, and playing in the toilet.

## Dr. Taras Odushkin

Dr. Taras Odushkin has been at OSSM since August, 2005. Dr. Odushkin was born in Ukraine where he earned an advanced degree in physics and worked for the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. He came to the United States in 1997, as a graduate student and received his Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from the University of Texas at Dallas. Dr. Odushkin's primary scientific interest is applications of mathematics to physical sciences and biology.

Besides his academic career, Dr. Odushkin has numerous hobbies and activities. He played chess competitively and was a member of the UT Dallas chess team, winning the 2000 Pan American Collegiate Chess Championship; he has worked as a part time ballroom dancing teacher and attended judo club for three years.

## Reminder:

**The weekend of Friday, September 29, through Monday, October 2, is an Extended Weekend. The Dan Little Residence Hall will close on Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. and will open on Monday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. for student check-in.**