



Good News

* Three OSSM seniors have been named **Commended Scholars** in the 2007 National Merit Scholarship Program. Congratulations to Philip Harris (Oklahoma City), Timothy Thomas (Enid), and Liang Zhang (Edmond).

Although they will not continue in the 2007 competition for Merit Scholarships, Commended Students placed among the top five percent of more than one million students who entered the 2007 competition when they sat for the 2005 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

To recognize their exceptional academic promise, about 34,000 young people have been named Commended Scholars from the pool of 1.3 million who took the fall, 2005 exam.

* Abie Odejimi (Oklahoma City) and Kimberly Dike (Edmond) have been named two of 3,000 outstanding **National Achievement Scholars** being referred to US colleges and universities. These students scored in the top five percent of more than 130,000 Black American students on the 2005 PSAT.

Counselor's Corner

A couple of additions and changes to college representative visits:

OSU-OKC

Wednesday, October 4, 11:30 a.m.

St. Louis University

Tuesday, October 31, 7:30 a.m.

Cameron University

Cancelled - will reschedule

Thank you to . . .

. . . Won Hong (Stillwater, '08), Alicia Tran (Oklahoma City, '08), Ohm Devani (Tulsa, '08), and Zoraya Hightower (Ada, '08) for allowing prospective students to shadow them this past week.

Dear Parents: In an attempt to spread the good news about OSSM accomplishments (alumni, faculty, current students, Regional Centers and other outreach activities, etc.) to the general public, this week we submitted the first in a series of monthly letters from Dr. Manning to the citizens of Oklahoma, to newspapers across the state. You can help by contacting your local newspaper to encourage the editor to publish Dr. Manning's letters.

PAOSSM

(www.paossm.org)

First, thank you to Janice Danser and her crew of parents who pulled off that wonderful party. A hearty RRRRR to you all! (That was written with one eye all squinted up.)

Next, don't forget the PAOSSM meeting this coming Monday @ 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Manning Academic Center. Our speaker will be Dr. Liliana Speed, OSSM school psychologist. You won't want to miss her unique perspective on our students.

Third, please remember to keep those pledges coming in. We're counting on those monthly amounts.

And last, please consider emailing Donna Roberts: droberts@ossm.edu and let her know you'll read the *Parents Weekly* online. It'll save time and many dollars in postage.

Chris & Mack Harris

Congratulations to

Ohm Devani.

He became a United States citizen last week.

The OSSM Student Council will be organizing the annual Fall Blood Drive (for seniors only) that is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, October 17. The drive will be run by the Oklahoma Blood Institute (OBI). Donations will be taken in the Reading Room in the Edna McDuffie Manning Academic Center, between 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Parents are welcomed (and even encouraged!) to come in to donate.

Students who wish to donate blood must have the permission of a parent or guardian (even if the student is 18-years-old, OSSM requires parental permission). Permission forms are attached to this newsletter if you are accessing the letter online. They were also available for seniors to pick up as they checked out for this extended weekend. You can also give your permission by telephone, email, or fax to Donna Roberts ([405/522-7806](tel:4055227806)/droberts@ossm.edu/fax405/521-6442).

The Blood Institute requires that donors be at least 17-years-old and weigh at least 105 pounds. Every donor must have a driver's license or other official identification (with date-of-birth). All donors will have the traditional blood pressure and cholesterol screenings, and will receive "thank-you" t-shirts. If you would like to join the faculty and student donors, please call Johanna Lee (405/521-6440) to set up a specific appointment time.

'96 Grad Addresses Assembly

Students and faculty attended a very interesting assembly on *Awesome Wednesday* this past week. Rodolfo Salas, a young man who graduated from OSSM in 1996, lectured about a new product the company he works for is developing. Rodolfo works for *Ekips* Technology, Inc. It is based in Norman, and is the creation of Dr. Patrick McCann, a professor in the OU School of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science.

The device they are developing uses laser spectroscopy to analyze exhaled compounds in the breath as a way to diagnose or monitor certain diseases or health conditions. Rodolfo is on the team of engineers working to optimize the device and on having it approved by the FDA.

Rodolfo attended Stanford University and returned to Oklahoma to finish his engineering degree at the University of Oklahoma.

Michelle Kramer (Muskogee, '08) opened the assembly with a vocal solo accompanying herself on piano. Thank you, Michelle, for a lovely performance.

Happy Birthday to:

Adam Mitchell	October 5
Leslie Rogers	October 5
Heather Wensler	October 5
Steven Zhang	October 5
C.J. Williams	October 7



Introducing the other 2/5ths of the Mathematics Faculty

Chengde Feng and Yunhua Feng

We are very fortunate to have as part of the OSSM Mathematics Department, two very brilliant, dedicated mathematicians, Chengde and Yunhua Feng. Between them, they bring to OSSM over 85 years of experience in teaching mathematics and coaching students for mathematics competitions. The Fengs are resident faculty - their apartment is on the men's second floor.

The professors began their teaching careers in 1964 at a junior/senior high school in Tianjin, China. Their careers followed each other closely. Mr. Feng became head coach and chief instructor at the Tianjin Math Spare-Time School, the Senior Coach of China Mathematics Association Olympiad Committee, an associate professor of mathematics at a teachers' advanced study college, and then the director of a study of mathematically precocious youth in Tianjin. Mrs. Feng was a chief instructor at the math school, Research Fellow of the Center of Teaching and Research, and then became an assistant director in the study of precocious youth.

The Fengs came to the United States in 1990 to spend time with their son, Zuming, who was in a PhD program at Johns Hopkins University (JHU). They both became heavily involved with studies being done by Dr. Julian Stanley and his Study of Mathematically Precocious Youth at the University. In 1991, Professor Chengde Feng joined the OSSM faculty, and Professor Yunhua Feng began teaching at OSSM in 1994. Since that time they have coached many students in numerous math competitions, winning national and international attention for their success. Professor Chengde Feng has also served as AP Faculty Consultant for Educational Testing Service (ETS), and as a member of MathCounts Question Writing Committee. He was selected to participate in the Teacher Program by the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund last summer.

They are very proud that Zuming received his PhD from Johns Hopkins and is teaching at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. The young Dr. Feng is the Leader and Coach of the United States Mathematics Olympiad Team, and serves as the Director of the US Mathematical Olympiad Summer Program. He has published more than ten books for USA and International Mathematical Olympiads and has lectured worldwide. Their daughter-in-law, Xueyu Zhang is a software principal engineer and earned an MS from the biomedical department of JHU. But the professors' greatest delight and pride-and-joy is their granddaughter, Claudia Feng. The nine-year-old is already a fifth grade student and active in swimming, skating, dancing, piano, and soccer. She, brags Mr. Feng, has been labeled the "young mathematician" by her schoolteacher because she has become so proficient at problem solving and to be able to do the Continental Mathematics League and the MathCounts contests! Their 5-year-old grandson, Zachary, goes to kindergarten and is expected to become a member of the US math Olympiad team in the year of 2019, although now he can only add/subtract two digit numbers and find the web to print pictures for coloring by himself.

Mr. Feng loves participating in basketball, volleyball, table tennis, and swimming. The Fengs have been married for 37 years and both enjoy country and classical music, movies, and reading. Mrs. Feng also spends a good deal of time with her embroidery, and in cooking up some fantastic Chinese delicacies.

Students Participate in Community Events

On Wednesday morning the Annual Chamber of Commerce Breakfast was held on the patio of the Byrd Library, attended by business and community leaders from the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. Also attending were six OSSM students with Dr. Manning, Donna Roberts, and Katie James, OSSM Director of Development. Mr. Doug Cummings, long-time Foundation Board member sponsored the OSSM table and joined the students for breakfast. OU President David Boren was the keynote speaker.

Thank you to Nan Butler (Wellston, '07), Amar Chakraborty (Oklahoma City, '08), Kevin Li (Edmond, '08), Claire Manning (Oklahoma City, '07), Abie Odejimi (Oklahoma City, '07), and Cassi Pinion (Ardmore, '07) for representing OSSM at this important event. The emcee, David Thompson, Publisher of the Daily Oklahoman, recognized the students twice before the crowd. Once during the introduction of the Health Center CEO's, and again at adjournment, announcing, "Here, ladies and gentlemen, is our future."

Seniors Kevin Lewis (Yukon), Nathan Roy (Choctaw), Arib Rahman (Norman), Kimberly Dike (Edmond), Axel Saenz (Tulsa), and Shereen Samadzadeh (Stillwater) joined Donna Roberts, Susan Greenwood, Dr. Peter Kish, Professor Tony Cornforth, and Coach Shannon Chasteen on last Friday morning for the **16th Annual Wacky Games**, an event that kicked off the Oklahoma Health Center 2006 United Way Campaign. The name "Wacky Games" accurately describes the event.

Our Awesome Ensemble team (Dike, Cornforth, Saenz, Chasteen, and Samadzadeh) won the bronze medal in the H2O Throw event. This is a game where one team member is blindfolded and spun around and then has to throw water balloons, backwards over the head to team member who are waiting to catch them in plastic trash bags worn like giant trousers. It is nice to know our people are so talented!

Thank you to all participants for representing OSSM.

Note to Parents: Students are invited to join in events like these by virtue of their availability (can't miss class or lab) and their willingness to participate.

She Keeps Going and going, and going . . .

Congratulations are in order again for Professor (Coach) Shannon Chasteen. Last week she participated in the Redman Half-Ironman event and finished 2nd in her age group and 6th overall in competition with 46 other women. Our *awesome* P.E. instructor swam 1.2 miles (Lake Hefner), biked 56 miles, and ran 13.1 miles. Shannon was most satisfied with the fact that she beat her previous time from last year by an hour and 15 minutes.

Congratulations to Philip Harris (Oklahoma City)

for winning an election runoff to fill a vacant place on the OSSM Student Council. Phil joins classmates Philip Danser (Edmond), Brooke Luo (Oklahoma City), Claire Manning (Oklahoma City), Abie Odejimi (Oklahoma City), and Nathan Roy (Choctaw) on the Council. Junior officers will be elected next spring

From the Dean of Students

Students Against Hunger is a national food drive benefiting people in need in the local area. OSSM is partnered with the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma and students across the state and nation. We will run an **OSSM Food Drive** from Monday, October 2, through Tuesday, October 31. Food items may be left at the residence hall (front desk). Cash or checks may be left with Johanna Lee at school. Checks should be payable to Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma.

More details at: www.ossm.edu/~jggleason.

Thank you to the many parents who helped make the Pirate Party last Saturday night one of the best parties I can recall in recent years: Manisha and Amal Chakraborty, Margo Connell, Mark Doiron, Carolyn and Mark Keyes, Bea and Phuoc Tran, Cassie and Mike Le, Sue and Randy Qualls, Kim and Steve Stotts, Penny and Don Wilson, Janice and Quentin Danser, Mack Harris, Mary Henderson, Frankie and Jeff Ledbetter, Connie Pruitt, Ruth Roy, and Cherie and Ron Weyand.

Plus a very big thanks to Mrs. Janice Danser who did all of the planning and organizing, and to the Rushing family for providing a spectacular array of dinner entrees.

Jack Gleason

Tear out card and return to contact person(s) YES! Sign me up!

NAME

ADDRESS

OSSM

CITY/STATE/ZIP

n/a

PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

DATE OF BIRTH

SOCIAL SECURITY NO.

I give my permission for the above named student to give blood.

PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE

PLEASE DON'T FORGET YOUR IDENTIFICATION!



Oklahoma Blood Institute

Oklahoma City • Tulsa • Norman • Lawton
Enid • Ardmore • Ada • Ponca City

www.obi.org

FREE T-SHIRT FOR EACH DONOR!

You must:

- ✓ EAT a good meal *before & after* donating.
- ✓ DRINK plenty of fluids *before & after* donating.
- ✓ Get a good night's sleep before donating.
- ✓ Be at least 17 years old.

- ✓ Bring driver's license or other I.D.
- ✓ Weigh at least 105 pounds.