

Alumni Connections, Summer 2023: TEST

Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics

Wed 6/28/2023 9:52 AM

To:Linda Waters <linda.waters@ossm.edu>

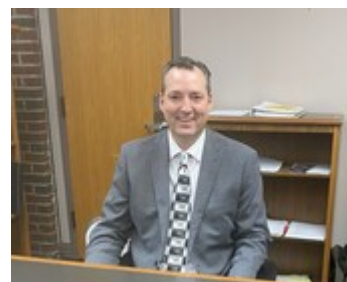


Oklahoma School of Science & Mathematics Alumni News Summer 2023

Tony Cornforth Begins Tenure as New OSSM President

Newly appointed OSSM President Tony Cornforth, the third president in the school's 30+-year history, began his new role on June 1. The OSSM Board of Trustees unanimously selected Professor Cornforth in

January. He follows Edna McDuffie Manning who served as the interim president for the past year following the retirement of Frank Wang, Ph.D.



A native northwestern Oklahoman, Professor Cornforth has worked with OSSM for more than 20 years. He started his career with the school as a math professor at its Ardmore regional center in 2002. He taught at the residential campus in Oklahoma City in 2004, and in 2007 he moved to Wayne, Okla., to launch a regional program. During his 14 years there, 287 students completed the program, and his students achieved greater success on the ACT and AP exams. He also had 17 Oklahoma Academic All-Staters.

“OSSM is the exemplar of science and math education and academic pursuit in Oklahoma,” said Cornforth. “Our sacred mission is to provide premier academic opportunities for our talented high school students. We should zealously and relentlessly pursue this mission.”

1995 Alumni Address Class of 2023 at Commencement



Graduation for the Class of 2023 was held at the Oklahoma State Capitol on Saturday, May 27. Matthew and Natasha Bray, both of the OSSM Class of 1995, addressed the group and encouraged them to embrace failure and change. The Class of 2023 included 44 students who were accepted by 75 different colleges and universities and earned \$4.5 million in scholarship offerings.

Natasha and Matthew Bray are native Oklahomans and met at OSSM. They've been together ever since, celebrating their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary last year.

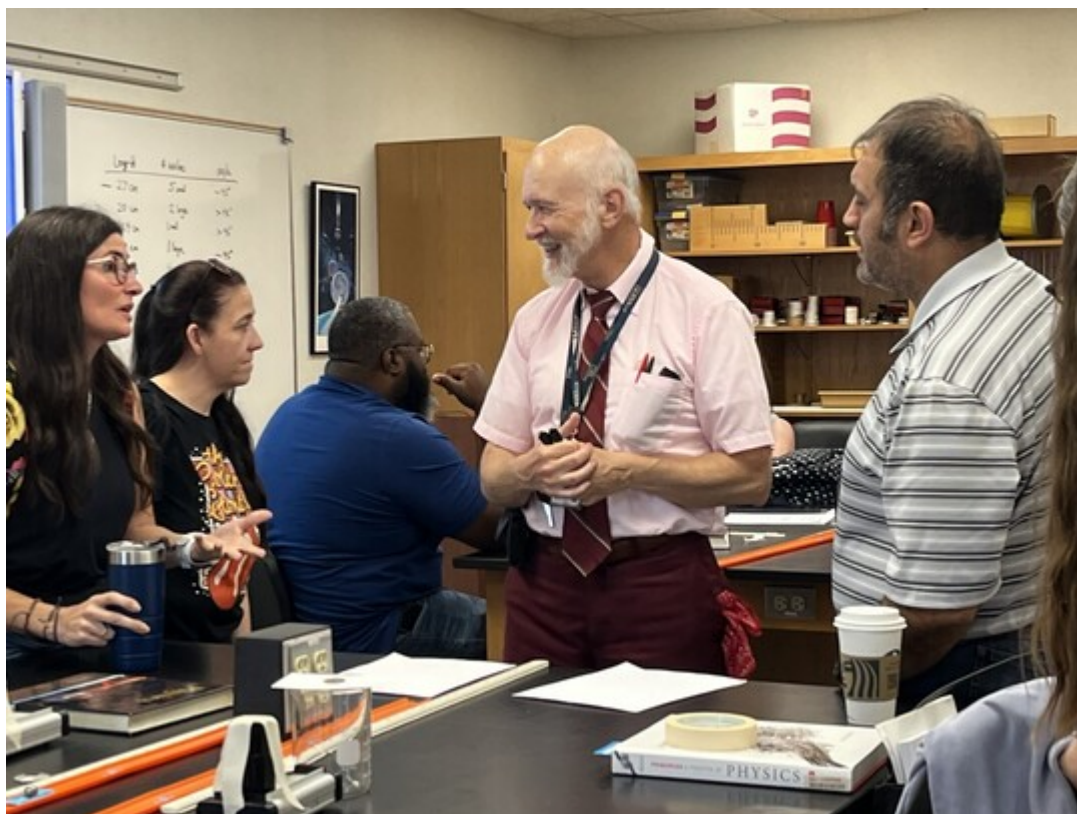
After graduating OSSM, they attended college at the University of Tulsa. Natasha earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Matthew earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

Natasha studied medicine at the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine and earned her Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from OSU-COM in 2003. She began her graduate medical education at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her internship, and then completed her residency at Cambridge Health Alliance/Harvard Affiliated Hospital in 2007.

During that same time Matthew made the transition from working as an engineer to attend Harvard Law School. In 2006 he earned his Juris Doctor degree from Harvard.

Natasha and Matthew have two sons in junior high school who both already have lofty academic goals of their own: One just competed in the Middle School National Science Bowl. In their limited free time, Natasha and Matthew enjoy working around their organic farm, trying to learn French in their 40s, and competing in endurance sports, including Ironman triathlon races and adventure marathons.





Summer Programs are Back!

Students have left, but the OSSM campus is still busy. During the first week of June, OSSM hosted the Sarkeys Foundation Summer Math Institute and the Summer Science Institute, which is sponsored by OMRF, Phillips 66 and OSSM Foundation Trustee Rob Miner for middle school teachers. Attendance at both were the highest they've been in several years with nearly 100 guests in attendance.

“Part of OSSM’s mission is to serve as a catalyst for advancing science and math education in Oklahoma,” said President Cornforth. “Our summer workshops and programs provide opportunities for hands-on instruction in a fun, educational environment. We welcome teachers and students from anywhere in the state to be on our campus for these unique classes.”

National Teacher of the Year Rebecka Peterson from Tulsa, Okla., addressed the Math Institute and described life lessons she learned from Calculus. Ms. Peterson was also the 2022 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year.

For middle school students, the summer series begins in June with free math workshops for rising sixth, seventh and eighth grade students. The one-day events feature different math skills. Students may enroll in one or all nine of the workshops, and all materials including lunch are included.

For high school students, OSSM offers Summer Academies with both math and science classes. These week-long residential programs are taught by the OSSM faculty and include field trips and evening activities. The academies will be held from July 16-21 and July 23-28

Alumna Profile: Sara Marie Bodenstein

Sara Marie Bodenstein is a member of the OSSM Class of 1994. Despite her father working for the school (Charles Dillard), she wasn't initially interested in being a student but agreed to go with a friend on a campus tour. It was then the tables turned. Sara Marie became greatly interested in attending, especially because of the labs and the hands-on experience they provide. Her friend, however, did not.



Today, following in her father's footsteps, Professor Bodenstein is a 14-year faculty member at OSSM. Dr. Manning, OSSM's founding president, offered her the position because she knew what Sara Marie was capable of having seen her thrive at the school. Now, she enjoys being able to help students achieve important things in their own journeys.

"When I think of the hundreds of students I have seen pass through OSSM, I am honored to have been a part of their education," she said. "My first students are finishing their advanced medical training, have families, and wonderful careers."

After OSSM, Sara Marie attended Oklahoma City University. She went on to earn her Master of Divinity from Duke University and is also an ordained United Methodist Pastor. At OSSM, her favorite classes to teach are precalculus II and calculus I. The former is because she helps students fill the gaps and get ready for next-level math. Calculus is a favorite because it makes great, unique leaps in understanding: limits, derivatives, and integrals.

She wants to bring those opportunities to even more students who live in Oklahoma who may not be aware that there is no cost to families to attend the residential program.

"OSSM provides a tremendous opportunity for all students in Oklahoma, especially those who may not be able to afford a college-level education," she said. "It can open a world of possibilities."

Have a Change of Information?

Help us stay in touch! OSSM alumni can easily update their contact information on the OSSM [website](#). Simply click on the Alumni tab/alumni contact information or click [here](#).

Update your subscriptions, modify your password or email address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [Subscriber Preferences Page](#). You will need to use your email address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please visit subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com.

This service is provided to you at no charge by [Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics](#).

This email was sent to Email Address using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics · 1141 North Lincoln Boulevard · Oklahoma City, OK 73104

