



Odyssey of the Mind[®]

Newsletter

Volume 23

Summer 2001


Number 4

NASA & Odyssey of the Mind -- Partners In Creative Problem Solving

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has partnered with the Odyssey of the Mind to develop an Earth science problem for the 2001-2002 program year. Dr. Sam Micklus announced the NASA sponsorship to a cheering crowd at World Finals Closing Ceremonies on June 5.

NASA is sponsoring Problem 2, *OMER's Earthly Adventures*, the technical/performance problem. They wanted a problem that would address environmental responsibility while incorporating creativity in an instructional and innovative atmosphere. The sponsorship helps fulfill their goal of stimulating interest and learning of Earth system science among all age groups.

NASA will provide other support services throughout the year and has already developed a special Web site, <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/odysseyofthemind/>, for Odyssey members. NASA scientists and engineers will attend the 2002 World Finals to talk with participants about educational opportunities and careers in Earth science with NASA.

According to Odyssey of the Mind Program Director Sammy Micklus, "NASA is a natural partner for Odyssey of the Mind. Our mission is to develop creative-thinking skills in individuals; their goal is to find individuals who possess those skills -- both for the purpose of building a better future." 



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A team from Humboldt-Gymnasium, Potsdam, Germany, leads the audience in reciting the Odyssey of the Mind Pledge at World Finals Opening Ceremonies. Team members Tanja Pilarski and Julie Mallwibr helped write the pledge.

World Finals Highlights

World Finals 2001 was a fitting end to a great competition year. Held at University of Maryland, College Park, the friendships made and the experiences gained are now cherished memories. Here are some highlights:

- **677 teams** competed, representing 33 U.S. states and 15 countries.
- **North Carolina** took home the most trophies with six overall; both **New York** and **Florida** each claimed five.
- **Poland** sent the most teams from any international association -- 11 -- and took home two gold medals; **Germany** ranked second in international participation with 6 teams.
- **Uganda** was represented for the first time with two teams, making this the first year of WF participation for the continent of Africa.
- **Peter Rosenstein** represented NAGC in accepting the Odyssey of the Mind Creativity Award (*see page 4*).
- **Dr. Karl-Ernst Plagemann** received the Odyssey Spirit Award for his work in growing the program throughout Europe. He also gave the commencement speech at Graduation.
- The popular Lithuanian singing group **SMILE** performed in a special pre-Awards Ceremony concert.

For more about World Finals, turn the page



CONGRATULATIONS WORLD CHAMPS!

The following teams were named World Champions at the Odyssey of the Mind 2001 World Finals. First-, second-, and third-place teams received a trophy and a plaque; fourth through sixth received honorable mention.



Xuhui Dist Juv Sci/Tech Center, Shanghai, CH, 1st Place Prob 1 Div II

TECHNO-PETS

Division II

1st Place: XUHUI DIST JUV SCI/TECH CENTER, Shanghai, China

2nd Place: WEST MID SCH, Liberal, KS

3rd Place (tie): PORT JERVIS MID SCH, Cuddebackville, NY

3rd Place (tie): HIGHTOWER TRAIL MID SCH, Marietta, GA

4th Place: ABINGTON HTS MID SCH TM A, Clarks Summit, PA

5th Place: A C REYNOLDS MID SCH, Asheville, NC

6th Place: WEST JHS, Cedar, MI

5th Place: VIENNA ELE SCH, Parkersburg, WV

6th Place: NIKE MID SCH, Gardner, KS



Ascension Cath Sch, Melbourne, FL, 1st Place Prob 2 Div II

Division II

1st Place: ASCENSION CATHOLIC SCH, Melbourne, FL

2nd Place: FOOTHILL MID SCH, Walnut Creek, CA

3rd Place: SPACE CENTER INT SCH, Houston, TX

4th Place: PLANTATION KEY SCH TM B, Tavernier, FL

5th Place: PUI CHING MID SCH, North Point, Hong Kong

6th Place: LONGS PEAK MID SCH, Longmont, CO

Division III

1st Place: O T B DAMB, Gdansk, Poland

2nd Place: GARDEN CITY HS, Garden City, KS

3rd Place: THOMAS JEFFERSON HS, Reston, VA

4th Place: CORUNNA HS, Corunna, MI

5th Place: QUEEN ELIZABETH SCH, North Point, Hong Kong

6th Place: SAYREVILLE WAR MEMORIAL HS, Parlin, NJ

Ody-SEE-ing SOUNDS

Division I

1st Place (tie): CAO GUANG BIAO PRIMARY SCH, Shanghai, China

1st Place (tie): WALSH INT SCH, Branford, CT

2nd Place: T C WALKER ELE SCH, Gloucester, VA

3rd Place: NORTHAMPTON BOROUGHS ELE SCH, Northampton, PA

4th Place: WEST SIDE CHRISTIAN SCH, Grand Rapids, MI

Division IV

1st Place: UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, Springdale, AR

Wild.Winged.Wonders.

Division I

1st Place: PINEVILLE ELE SCH, Pineville, NC

2nd Place: NORTH COVENTRY ELE SCH, Pottstown, PA

3rd Place (tie): SKEEN ELE SCH, Leesburg, FL

3rd Place (tie): BUCKHORN ELE SCH, Valrico, FL

3rd Place (tie): MANTUA ELE SCH, Vienna, VA

4th Place: CREATIVE PRIMARY SCH, North Point, Hong Kong

5th Place: NORTHERN HILLS ELE SCH, Edmond, OK

6th Place: DURANT ROAD ELE SCH TM A, Raleigh, NC

Division II

1st Place: PINE VIEW SCH, Osprey, FL

2nd Place (tie): MONROE-WOODBURY MID SCH TM A, Central Valley, NY

2nd Place (tie): WEST JHS, Cedar, MI

3rd Place: LAKEWOOD MID SCH TM A, North Little Rock, AR

4th Place: FAITH SCH, Ft Benning, GA

5th Place: ORINDA INT SCH BLUE, Orinda, CA

6th Place: ENKA MID SCH, Candler, NC



O T B Damb, Gdansk, Poland 1st Place Prob 3 Div III

Division III

1st Place: O T B DAMB, Gdansk, Poland

2nd Place: MYERS PARK HS WHITE, Charlotte, NC

3rd Place: MOUNTAIN HOME HS, Mountain Home, AR

4th Place: ROSWELL HS, Roswell, GA

5th Place: GOSHEN HS, Goshen, NY

6th Place: KNOX CENTRAL HS, Barbourville, KY

Division IV

1st Place: UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, Athens, GA

2nd Place: O E T EWTEL, Poland



J Y Joyner Ele Sch, Raleigh, NC 1st Place Prob 4 Div I

ACHILLES' HEEL

Division I

1st Place: J Y JOYNER ELE SCH, Raleigh, NC

2nd Place: POQUOSON ELE SCH, Poquoson, VA

3rd Place: VINCENT ELE SCH, Spring City, PA

4th Place (tie): BALES INT SCH TM A, Friendswood, TX

4th Place (tie): WHISCONIER MID SCH, Brookfield, CT

5th Place: CHARLOTTE LATIN SCH, Charlotte, NC

6th Place: CENTENNIAL ELE SCH, Loveland, CO

Division II

1st Place: SALAMANCA CENTRAL SCH, Salamanca, NY

2nd Place: VALLEY SPRINGS MID SCH, Arden, NC

3rd Place: JAMES MADISON MID SCH, Roanoke, VA

4th Place: EXPLORIS MID SCH, Raleigh, NC

5th Place: **FOREST EDGE ELE SCH**, Great Falls, VA

6th Place: **PIONEER MID SCH**, Hanford, CA

Division III

1st Place (tie): **T C ROBERSON HS**, Asheville, NC

1st Place (tie): **POQUOSON HS**, Poquoson, VA

2nd Place: **HILLCREST HS**, Dallas, TX

3rd Place: **AUBURN ODYSSEY OF THE MIND INC**, Auburn, ME

4th Place (tie): **HINSDALE CENTRAL HS**, Hinsdale, IL

4th Place (tie): **BLYTHEVILLE HS**, Blytheville, AR

5th Place: **PETERS TWSP HS**, McMurray, PA

6th Place: **PANORAMA G/T PROG**, Linden, IA



*Sibaura Inst of Tech, Saitama, JP
1st Place Prob 4 Div IV*

Division IV

1st Place: **SIBAURA INSTITUTE OF TECH**, Saitama, Japan

2nd Place: **UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA/OMAHA**, Papillion, NE



*Monroe-Woodbury Mid Sch, Central Valley, NY
1st Place Prob 5 Div II*

3rd Place: **KETTERING UNIVERSITY**, Flint, MI

4th Place: **TEMASEK POLYTECHNIC SCH**, Singapore

IDIOM INSPIRATION

Division I

1st Place: **DEER PARK ELE SCH**, New Port Richey, FL

2nd Place: **McKEE ROAD ELE SCH**, Charlotte, NC

3rd Place: **SAMUEL STAPLES ELE SCH TM A**, Easton, CT

4th Place (tie): **PINE RIDGE CHRISTIAN SCH**, Holland, MI

4th Place (tie): **NEWTOWN FRIENDS SCH**, Newtown, PA

4th Place (tie): **LAWRENCE INT SCH**, Lawrenceville, NJ

5th Place: **SHADOWBRIAR SCH**, Houston, TX

6th Place (tie): **ACHILLES ELE SCH**, Gloucester, VA

6th Place (tie): **G R HAMPTON ELE SCH**, Barbourville, KY

Division II

1st Place: **MONROE-WOODBURY MID SCH TM A**, Central Valley, NY

2nd Place: **DURHAM MID SCH**, Acworth, GA

3rd Place: **WOODLAND JHS**, Fayetteville, AR

4th Place: **FAIRFIELD WOODS MID SCH TM B**, Fairfield, CT

5th Place: **ANGLO CHINESE SCH**, Singapore

6th Place (tie): **LARC: LINDELL SCH**, Long Beach, NY

6th Place (tie): **CEDAR CREST MID SCH**, Lebanon, PA

RANATRA FUSCA CREATIVITY AWARD WINNERS

Team: **Hillcrest HS**, Dallas, TX
Achilles' Heel, Div III: *This team displayed outstanding creativity in the use of "Rhythm, Repetition and Rhyme," never missing a beat. Their single prop expanded, made music, contracted back to size, and stunned, amazed and energized.*

Individual: **Zhou Zheng**, Houbai Prim Sch, Beijing, CH
Achilles' Heel, Div I: *This individual showed exceptional creativity in portraying a mouse being chased by a rat without talking. He conveyed the message with body language, facial expressions and choreography. Without speaking he showed his exuberant personality.*

Team: **Jonesboro HS**, GA
Techno-Pets, Div III: *This team showed outstanding creativity in its unusual approach to the presentation of this problem. They presented a high-risk, non-verbal solution. The team's theme of laundry was incorporated throughout its solution. Sets and costumes were constructed of laundry-related items. This team knocked the judges socks off!*

Team: **YMCA Gdynia**, Poland
Idiom Inspiration, Div I: *This three-member team presented an extraordinary creative solution by using minimal props. The*

role of the main character was passed seamlessly from member to member, creating the illusion of one performer. This team showed that less is more!

Team: **Monroe Mid Sch**, CT
Wild.Winged.Wonders. Div II: *This team showed exceptional risk and creativity in the design of a team member's wings. The team made the costume out of actual live, growing grass. The resulting piece of grass material worked beautifully as dramatic visual wings. The grass wings significantly enhanced the ecological theme of the solution.*

Team: **Chenango Valley Mid Sch**, Binghamton, NY
Techno-Pets, Div II: *This team showed exceptional creativity in the use of various frisbees for the programming of its vehicles. The frisbees, which had metal strips attached, determined the tasks. This team showed a high level of risk by using the frisbees.*

Team: **Roswell HS**, Roswell, GA
Wild.Winged.Wonders. Div III: *This team took major risks in every aspect of the solution: their mile-high moving sculpture, their life-sized Tiki doll "Earl," and their self-animated short film blended Henson-worthy puppets with fantastic political wit.*

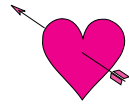
OMER's Award

Following are selected recipients of OMER's Award for 2001.

Judge: **Tom Sawyer**, CA
Idiom Inspiration, Div I: *This judge is a perfect example of Odyssey of the Mind's desire to showcase children and their intelligence. His enthusiasm is contagious. His manner relaxes children and ignites the energy and obvious enjoyment of the program's process. His own stage presence inspires the children to be at home on stage and to have fun.*

Team member: **Grant Hawkins**, Grand Rapids, MI
Ody-SEE-ing Sounds, Div II: *Grant spent a month at home recovering from brain surgery. During this time he wrote the script, and designed and began construction of the contraptions. Although he could not play his trumpet he wrote a three-part jazz piece. With a positive attitude, he displayed all the qualities deserving of this award.*

Love Was In the Air at the Float & Banner Parade!



The World Finals Float & Banner Parade is always a special event for all, but this year it held a very, very special meaning to two Odyssey of the Mind officials. Vermont Association Director **George Holcomb** and WF volunteer **Daria Sacca** pledged their commitment to marry in front of a cheering crowd. George popped the question on the big screen in Cole, and a surprised Daria happily accepted. A September 2002 wedding is planned. They're waiting so they can do it right. They'll have the perfect church, the right photographer, the best food, and all the other trimmings that will make theirs a storybook wedding. We wish the couple a long, happy life together -- filled with many creative opportunities, of course!

TOP 10 IN WF FLOAT & BANNER PARADE

FLOAT

Arizona
Arkansas
China
Delaware
Florida
Japan
Kansas
Michigan
New York
Virginia

BANNER

Connecticut
Georgia
Hong Kong
Japan
Louisiana
Missouri
New Jersey
Oklahoma
South Carolina
Vermont

Steeped in Tradition -- Two Very Different Events

It was all there at Cole Arena on Monday night: the crazy contraptions, the outlandish costumes, and a few hundred adults eager to test the fruits of their creative minds. The WF Coaches & Officials Competition is a turn of the tables, where the coaches get to solve a problem in front of an audience that includes their own team members. This year, participants created devices to move tennis balls 20 feet into a trash can target.

Earlier that evening, more than 60 students partook in a ritual of pomp and circumstance at the Graduation Ceremony. The ceremony is an annual tradition, held for WF participants who miss out on their graduation at home because of attending the competition.

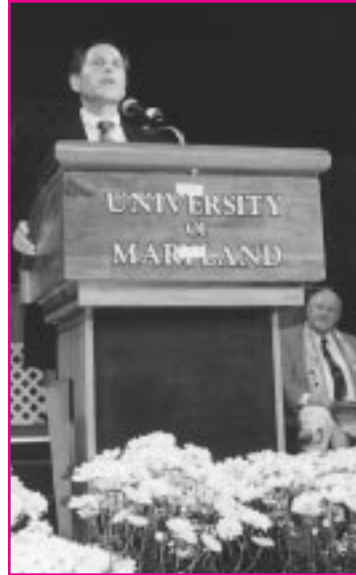
Left: A happy graduate complete with cap and gown -- and glasses.

Right: WF judge Angela Richard, TX, in her Pole Cat get-up, readies for the Coaches Competition. Her group took 1st place in the Officials Division.



A Special Message From NAGC

The Odyssey of the Mind is proud to have named the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) as the recipient of its 2002 Creativity Award. NAGC Executive Director Peter Rosenstein accepted the award for the organization. The following article, written by Mr. Rosenstein, appeared in the Summer issue of Communicate, the newsletter of the NAGC.



NAGC Executive Director Peter Rosenstein speaks to the audience in response to receiving the Odyssey of the Mind Creativity Award. His friend and colleague Dr. Sam Micklus looks on.

“NAGC was honored to receive the Odyssey of the Mind Creativity Award at the 22nd Odyssey of the Mind World Finals at the University of Maryland on June 5. I had the pleasure of attending the awards ceremony on behalf of NAGC.

“The 22nd annual Odyssey of the Mind World Finals was an impressive event. The Award was presented in front of 12,000 enthusiastic students and coaches from around the world. The final ceremonies and award presentation included nearly 700 teams from as far away as Asia, Europe and for the first time Africa, who had the chance to compete in five areas over four exciting days.

“Jane Clarenbach from the national office joined me at the ceremonies and the wonderful spirit that infused the entire event overwhelmed us. I was pleased to see so many of our NAGC members in attendance acting as coaches and volunteers and giving so generously of their time and talents. Seeing the kids' excitement and smiling faces as they cheered on the winning teams reinforces and makes all the work we do worthwhile. These are children who are being challenged and are challenging themselves to think creatively and reach for their full potential.

“I have had the pleasure of knowing Sam Micklus, the founder of Odyssey of the Mind for many years and NAGC has been pleased to support this program. Sam, his wife Carole, and their son Sammy, who now directs Odyssey of the Mind, should be proud of their organization. You could see and feel the love that the participants, coaches, and teachers have for them.

“NAGC is extremely honored to be the recipient of this prestigious award and join such individuals and groups as Paul Torrence, IBM Corporation, Walt Disney and Disney World Company and Joan Ganz Cooney, just a few of the past recipients. The plaque has a place of honor in the NAGC national office.”



2001-2002 ODYSSEY OF THE MIND MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For new memberships or renewals, complete this form and return it with a check, purchase order, or credit card number (see below).

Check one:

Divisions I, II & III:

- Individual school:** Must register in the school name. May enter one team per problem per division in competition.
- Two or more schools:** Must share the same principal. Use school district name on application. May enter one team per problem per division in competition.
- Home-schooled students:** All students on the team must be home-schooled. May enter one team per problem.
- Community Group:** May not be an organization established solely for the purpose of participating in Odyssey of the Mind. May enter one team per problem in competition. Please submit by-laws if this is a new membership.

Division IV: May enter one team per problem. Proceeds directly to World Finals and has the opportunity to compete at the Association level.

Membership name _____ Membership number (if renewal) _____

Grades covered by membership _____ School district _____

Contact person (may be a coach) _____

Mailing address (for newsletter delivery and correspondence) _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip _____

County _____ Country _____

Daytime phone _____ FAX _____ E-mail _____

*Each individual membership costs \$135, but you will receive discounts if you purchase more than one membership. For each membership purchased, you will receive five competitive **long-term problems**, one **primary problem**, one **Program Guide**, one **booklet of spontaneous problems and practice tips**, one **scholarship application**, one **newsletter subscription** and various other materials.*

- Individual 2001-2002 Odyssey of the Mind Membership @ \$135..... _____
- Additional membership(s) for the same school or community group @ \$100..... _____
- 6-10 memberships for the same school district (registered at the same time) @ \$120..... _____
- 11 or more memberships from the same school district (registered at the same time) @ \$100..... _____

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND SUPPORT MATERIALS

- copies of ***Applying Your Creativity @ \$18** Discusses different types of human creativity..... _____
- copies of ***Creativity + Teamwork = Solutions! @ \$18** Includes tips on building effective teams..... _____
- copies of ***Odysseymania! @ \$17** Includes a chapter on humor and creativity..... _____
- copies of ***Make Learning Fun @ \$17** Provides a history of the program..... _____
- Odyssey of the Mind 2001 World Finals Video Yearbook @ \$20** Highlights of the event..... _____
- Coaches Training Video @ \$18** Tips & techniques for coaches..... _____



**These books are a collection of long-term and spontaneous problems.
Shipping & handling for the above books & videos is \$3.50 for the first item, \$1 for each additional item.
There are no shipping & handling charges for membership packets and the items listed below.*

- additional copies of **Odyssey of the Mind Program Guide @ \$5** (one is included with membership)..... _____
Contains basic competition information and membership rules. (Price includes shipping & handling.)
- packs of **Balsa Wood** (premium grade AAA 36" x 1/8" x 1/8") @ \$20 per 100 pieces (includes S & H)..... _____

Contact CCI with any questions
856.456.7776 ● info@odysseyofthemind.com ● fax 856.456.7008
www.odysseyofthemind.com

Subtotal _____
Shipping & Handling _____
Total _____

To submit payment:

- Complete this form and mail it to CCI, 1325 Rte 130 S, Suite F, Gloucester City, NJ 08030, along with a check, money order or p.o., payable to CCI, or with your credit card information.
- If paying by p.o., you may FAX your order to 856.456.7008.
- If paying by credit card, you may FAX your order, order by phone: 856.456.7776, or e-mail info@odysseyofthemind.com.

VISA MasterCard American Express Discover

Acct. no. _____ Exp. _____

Signature of cardholder _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS (For UPS Delivery)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov _____

Zip _____ Country _____



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IT'S TIME TO
BE CREATIVE!

The *Odyssey of the Mind Newsletter* is published by Creative Competitions, Inc. Editor: Carol Ann DeSimine.

COACHES: CREATIVITY LOVES COMPANY

The Odyssey of the Mind benefits children of all ages with different interests and abilities. We know it and, because you're involved, you know it, too. So why don't more schools participate?

Many districts enter every one of their schools in the program. Why? Because school officials are aware of the benefits the program brings. If your district does not enter all of its schools, then spread the word.

Your school board and superintendent may not be familiar with the Odyssey of the Mind: its long history, how it teaches teamwork, how it allows students to develop their creative problem-solving abilities. Brochures and letters can explain the program, but they cannot provide personal testimony to express its true value and impact on students. The best advocates are coaches, parents, and even team members when it comes to bringing this message to school officials.

Attend a school board meeting to let members know why their schools should get involved. Meet with principals and administrators and tell them how your team members have benefited from participation. In many districts, participation in Odyssey of the Mind fills a void in the regular curriculum; in some districts, it is integrated into the regular curriculum.

In the Odyssey of the Mind we know that creativity loves company. The more support the program gains, the stronger it will become. In the end, it is the team members who will benefit most, because more people will recognize the importance of their extraordinary achievements.

WE'RE GETTING A NEW LOOK!

This Fall, Creative Competitions, Inc. is launching a new and improved Odyssey of the Mind Web site. The address will remain the same -- www.odysseyofthemind.com -- but the site will be redesigned with lots of added features such as downloadable classroom activities, and a store to purchase books and souvenirs. Check in often!

CU In '02!

Jill Johnson from Longs Peak Middle School in Colorado teams up with the Odyssey of the Mind mascot, OMER, to invite everyone to the University of Colorado at Boulder for the Odyssey of the Mind 2002 World Finals, May 22-26. Looking forward to seeing you there!

