



OMER'S WORLD NEWS

Saturday, May 25, 2019

East Lansing, MI

ODYSSEY GRADUATION A CEREMONY TO REMEMBER FOREVER BY BRENDAN DWYER

Some special World Finals participants gathered at the Breslin Center Friday evening to celebrate a one-of-a-kind event. High school seniors in the OotM program, and some graduating from middle school to college, enjoyed the honor of experiencing an Odyssey of the Mind graduation ceremony. Emotions were running high as some participants are now graduating out of the Odyssey program as they leave high school with the many challenges of college ahead. A few participants are even missing their high school graduation ceremonies at home to be in East Lansing for World Finals.

Although far from home and missing some important senior activities, these young people love the Odyssey program, and their teams, so much that there is clearly nowhere they'd rather be.

Graduating senior Joe Grundorf from Sanford, Florida flew up over night to do the Odyssey graduation Friday and compete with his team on Saturday. "I did online high school back home so really my peer group is my Odyssey team," said Joe. "No matter where I am, I feel more at home with my Odyssey team."

Senior Emily Delfos from Little Rock, Arkansas agreed. "Having an OotM graduation is more special because of how I feel about the Odyssey community," said Delfos. "As my last Worlds competition with my Odyssey team it's sad - the end of an era but also a new beginning. I'll always love Odyssey."

Matthew Laun from Corbin, Kentucky said even though he is a senior he sees no end in sight for his involvement in the Odyssey program. "Odyssey is something so special to me and I've been doing it for nine years," said Laun. "This isn't the end for me. I plan to judge and volunteer with Odyssey of the Mind for the rest of my life."

A record total of 160 college, high school seniors and middle schoolers proudly crossed



Caleb Brownstein of Milford, Delaware, pictured here with Dr. Sam missed a lot of senior activities back at home this week but said it has been a long-term goal to make Worlds his senior year and have an Odyssey graduation.

the stage to accept a diploma from Dr. Sam and this year's Spirit Award winner, Dennis Godfrey.

OotM Founder Dr. Sam Micklus addressed the graduates with the sage wisdom for which he is known and loved. "There are all types of learning, and problem solving is the highest form. Odyssey competition adds creativity to that to create an even higher form," said Dr. Sam. "Use the wisdom you have achieved during your time in Odyssey and apply it to all the problems you face in life. Keep thinking!"

TEAM PHOTOGRAPHY

We are proud to announce that once again, Premier Portraits will be the official team portrait photographer for the 2019 World Finals. We will be available for team photos during the Creativity Festival at IM East, the Breslin Center during the day and evening events. We ask that you have your team pictures taken as early in the week as possible to avoid long lines. Costumes and props are strongly encouraged.

BRESLIN CENTER

Saturday, May 25: 9:30pm-10:00pm

CREATIVITY FESTIVAL @ IM EAST

Saturday, May 25: 9:00am-12:00pm

Prices are \$10 for each 5x7 and \$18 for each 8x10. Also available are key chain packages for \$20.00 and photo travel mugs for \$20.00. Each team photographed will receive a free 5x7 photo for their school. There is only one free 5x7 per photo taken; if two teams are photographed together you only receive one 5x7.

Appear in the 2019 Odyssey Yearbook. Come and have your picture taken at any of the above locations to make sure your team will appear in yearbook.

IN THIS ISSUE

Graduation.....	1
Important Phone Numbers.....	1
Social Media and Website.....	1
Commemorative OMER Stamp.....	1
Team Photography	1
Coach Inspires Judges	2
The Journey is Part of the Fun	2
Shuttle Schedule	2
World Finals App	2
Dumpster Diving Prohibited	2
OotM Family Reunion!.....	3
Local Indoor Recreation.....	3
Awards Ceremony Ticket Info.....	3
Computer Access.....	3
Weather Forecast.....	3
Breslin Center Item Restrictions.....	3
Reduce Spontaneous Stress.....	4
Don't Miss the After Parties!.....	4
Prop Storage & Delivery	4
Pizza House Special Offer	4
Event Schedule	4
Check out Reminders.....	4
Heath Services	4
Omer's World News Staff	4
Souvenir Stations	4

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Fire, Police, Ambulance
911 Emergency ONLY

Greater Lansing Visitors Center
(517) 487-6800

MSU Campus Information
(517) 355-1855

MSU Physicians Office

Olin Health Center
(517) 884-6546

MSU Public Safety

Police Department / Parking
(517) 355-2221

Props/Storage Information at Logistics Central Receiving
(517) 884-6082

World Finals Information Desk
(517) 353-5794 or (517) 353-5795

World Finals Registration
(517) 353-5796

ON THE WEB

[facebook.com/OdysseyHQ](https://www.facebook.com/OdysseyHQ)

twitter.com/#OdysseyWF

twitter.com/#odyselfie

www.odysseyofthemind.com

OMER STAMP

USPS will be onsite at the International Center with the customized World Finals cancellation stamp for 2019! Please stop by to pick up your postcard and send a note home with a piece of the 2019 event. Cancellation stamp will be available at the East Lansing post office (1140 Abbot Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823) 9am-3pm on Saturday.

AWARDS CEREMONY TICKET INFORMATION

Teams, coaches, and guests staying on campus will have reserved Awards Ceremony tickets in their registration packets. All others can get their tickets in advance. Pick up your reserved seating tickets at the Odyssey of the Mind Information Booth at the International Center on Saturday, May 25th for Saturday night's Awards Ceremony between 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. All seats are reserved. Any tickets still available after 6 pm can be obtained at the Breslin Center Ticket Office, located at the Gilbert Pavilion Gate. Concessions will be open during the event. Awards Ceremony will take place at the Breslin Center from 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

FORMER COACH INSPIRES TEAM SUCCESS & NEXT GENERATION OF WF JUDGES BY AMANDA VASAS

In the seven years Tom Bojanski, of Durham, North Carolina, coached the "Quest Homeschoolers," the team reached State Finals seven times and World Finals four times – placing third, eighth, fourth and third.

"What always excited me about Odyssey of the Mind is its platform to develop life skills in a safe environment," said Bojanski. "I tried to focus on how to be creative, work together in a team environment, listen, encourage one another and work through conflicts."

His coaching approach not only paid off during team performances, its positive effects continue as the Quest Homeschoolers do phenomenal work for the organization as Odyssey alumni. This year, five of the former team members, along with Bojanski and his wife, Nikki, are judging at World Finals!

Meet the Quest Homeschoolers Alumni WF Judges:

- Tom Bojanski**, judging Problem 1.
- Nikki Bojanski**, judging Problem 3.
- Michael Bojanski**, judging Spontaneous and current leader of OdysseyAlumni, the official alumni group.
- Andrew Patrick** of Wilmington, NC, judging Problem 1.
- Jacob Mitchell** of Indianapolis, IN, volunteers in Kentucky and judging Problem 3.
- Daniel Stickel** of Chapel Hill, NC, judging Problem 2.
- Sean Stickel** of Chapel Hill, NC, designs many of the state's pins and judging Problem 5.

With Odyssey celebrating its 40th anniversary, the Quest Homeschoolers alumni officials say that while outstanding team creativity hasn't changed, the use of technology in problem-solving has. From social media and 3D-printing to coding, these WF judges say technology is just one of the ways teams today take their performances to a whole new level.

"Instead of playing it safe, a lot of teams have embraced taking more risks," said Daniel Stickel. "I think the solutions have been equally creative over the years, but Odyssey has started to reward the risk-taking aspects of the performance more."

Watching them grow from competitors to

WF officials, Bojanski says it's exciting for him to see his former team members continue to give back and make a difference in others' lives. As a judge and former coach, he says he hopes 2019 WF competitors take time to meet other teams and watch their creativity in action.



Then: Quest Homeschoolers circa 2007 World Finals: Michael Bojanski, Sean Stickel, Daniel Stickel, Jacob Mitchell and coach Tom Bojanski.



Now: 2019 World Finals Judges: Nikki Bojanski, Daniel Stickel, Sean Stickel, Jacob Mitchell, Andrew Patrick, Tom Bojanski and Michael Bojanski (center).

WITH ODYSSEY THE JOURNEY IS PART OF THE FUN BY BRENDAN DWYER

OotM World Finals is a one-of-a-kind destination – one that's absolutely worth the journey – but that journey is different for nearly every team that qualifies. To some, East Lansing Michigan is right around the corner, to others, it's on the other side of the globe.

Cao Qian said her team is enjoying MSU campus after a 14-hour flight from Shanghai, China. "It was a very long flight but also very exciting because it's my first time at Worlds," said Qian. She and her team said they are fired up and ready to compete in Hide In Plain Sight.

Other teams didn't have quite as far to travel, but got off to a bumpy start on their way to worlds. Take the team from Mountain Top, Pennsylvania who got almost an hour into the drive to East Lansing when they realized they forgot their costumes for Problem #1 and had to go back! And there's Kenzie Etter from Arizona who is here with her team to compete in Problem 1, Division 1 – her travel day started with her falling out of bed!

Some Odyssey teams don't mind the miles at all, in fact, many tack on side trips before and after competition. The Floyd Team from

Saratoga New York took time out for a pit stop at Cedar Point Amusement Park in Ohio before arriving at World Finals. When asked



This excited team from Saratoga New York has been working together for ten years. As seniors they want to make this 4th time at Worlds really special.

SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

Indian Trails will be operating bus routes throughout the competition connecting the residence halls, problem sites and facilities, parking, recreational facilities and the Breslin Center. There will be three bus routes running on MSU campus for participants during World Finals. Please look for the bus hosts to assist you in finding your way around campus. All routes will meet at the transfer station located at the MSU Auditorium. The Green Bus Route will go through south campus and get you to the residence halls and problem sites. The Red Bus Route will go through north campus and get you to the Breslin Center, residence halls and problem sites. The Blue Bus Route will go through east campus and get you to the residence halls and problem sites. Parking Bus Route will service public lots and drop on campus at the Akers/Conrad bus stop only.

Scheduled Shuttle Hours:

Saturday, May 25th: Green/Red/Blue Bus Routes: begin 6:00am & end 12:30am

Parking Route (MSU Bus): begin 6:00am & end 12:30am

Sunday, May 26th: Parking Route (MSU Bus): begin 5:00am & end 1:00pm

WORLD FINALS APP

Get the FREE World Finals APP!

Get all the information you need: maps, a list of events, the competition schedule, and more. Create a customized schedule, connect with new friends, and be the first to receive any updates during the event. Search OMER's World or follow links on the OotM website to go directly to Google Play or iTunes. <https://www.odysseyofthemind.com/world-finals-app/>

NOTICE TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

Please be aware that **AT NO TIME IS IT SAFE, ALLOWED OR TOLERATED** to climb into any dumpster for any reason on the campus of Michigan State University. Violating this rule could result in being removed from the event and/or putting yourself or others in great danger! Thank you.



IT'S AN ODYSSEY OF THE MIND FAMILY REUNION! BY BRENDAN DWYER

Odyssey of the Mind competition has a way of bringing people together. Teammates. Coaches. Even states and countries. This year that special Odyssey magnetism worked its magic on a few generations of family spread across the United States.

Leah Nazworth loved OotM in her youth, and because her niece Emma had been involved for years, Leah was thrilled when her daughter Cailin got interested. While Emma was busy with her Odyssey team in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, Cailin started her Odyssey journey at Randolph Middle School in Charlotte, North Carolina. So here are two cousins, on different teams, with their Moms as coaches, all about OotM, but living 560 miles apart. When both teams qualified for their respective state finals, family texts of joy, support and congratulations went flying back and forth between the Strickland's and the Nazworth's. It was on to State Finals - or not so fast for Emma. It looked like her team from Loyalsock Middle School would have to compete without her as Emma was rushed to the hospital for emergency surgery for a ruptured appendix. Early dreams of both teams possibly qualifying at States to earn an invitation to Worlds appeared to be dashed. Cailin's team went on to shine at States, earning 2nd place in their division. They were headed to Worlds! But what about Emma and her team? After two weeks in the hospital Emma rallied to join her team at States where they took first,



earning their own spot in World Competition! With both teams qualified, the stage was set. After inviting grandparents to join, it was to be a family reunion at World Finals! And yes, both teams are competing against each other in Problem 5, Division 2. "We knew this was a rare occurrence to have two cousins in two different states make it to Worlds for the first time competing in the same problem and division," said Leah Nazworth. "So we knew from the grandparents to the grandchildren...

we all needed to come! And how excited we are!"

Excited is a fitting emotion, given the whole family is here and it's both teams' first time at Worlds. "As much as it is an amazing event that we are meeting together in Worlds, it is much more of an accomplishment for all the team who have worked SO HARD to make it this far," Continued Nazworth. "The family reunion is just icing on the cake!"

LOCAL INDOOR RECREATION IDEAS:

City Limits Bowling Center

2120 E. Saginaw Hwy., East Lansing
Phone: (517) 337-7000
<http://www.mycitylimits.com>

Description: Each location features 24 lanes of bowling, bumper bowling for the kids, birthday and corporate parties, cosmic bowling. We offer bowling leagues with something for all ages and skill levels - like our NASCAR, Bad Bowlers and other fun leagues. While you're there, grab a bite to eat from our award winning City Limits Sports Grill. Watch your favorite teams on the big screens.

Edru Skate

1891 N. Cedar St., Holt
Phone: (517) 699-2002
<http://www.edruskate.com>

Description: Be our guest! Come roller skating or inline skating with us! We also have laser tag, snack bar, arcade, pro shop and ice cream. Specializing in birthday and private parties. Memories will come rushing back when you're cast under the spell and magic of roller skating.

Launch Lansing

1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos
Phone: (517) 381-7812

<https://launchtrampolinepark.com/lansing>
Description: Launch Trampoline Park is the premier Family Entertainment destination in the Greater Lansing Area. At Launch, we have over 15,000 sq ft. of connected trampolines featuring Extreme Dodgeball, Tumbletracks, Battle Beams, Slackline and more. In addition to trampoline inspired activities, we have our ninja obstacle course, laser tag arena and 25+ adventurous arcade games. Hungry, no

worries, join us at Krave, our state of the art cafe featuring homemade pizzas and an ice cream sundae bar with over a dozen toppings to select from, among other mouth watering eats and treats for guest enjoyment. So whether you're in town flying solo or a group of 50+, we've got an entertainment package that will meet your needs. Visit www.launchtrampolinepark.com/lansing for more details.

Spare Time Entertainment Center

3101 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing
Phone: (517) 337-2695

<http://www.sparetimelansing.com>
Description: Fun for the whole family! Over 30 lanes of bowling with dozens of TVs so you can watch the game and never miss a frame. Enjoy a great arcade, escape rooms, bumper cars and sand volleyball! Book your next group get together in the Capital room. Or try Grand River Bar & Grill and enjoy classic American food. Make your Spare Time Fun Time!

OotM COMPUTER ACCESS

There are two computer labs on campus available for Odyssey use. The login is "browse" and password is "Odyssey2019". There is no print access. Computer labs are available to Odyssey of the Mind guests Tuesday, May 21 through Saturday, May 25 from 7am-10pm at the following locations:

Akers - 141, Brody - 143

Wireless is available to the Odyssey participants and guests however access will vary based on where you are on campus. Please visit <https://tech.msu.edu/visitors/> for all instructions on how to connect to the campus guest network. Wi-Fi is available when you see the MSUnet Guest ID showing as a wireless option in your area.

WEATHER FORECAST



Saturday: High of 79° F
Showers Likely



Sunday: High of 74° F
Sunny

BRESLIN

STUDENT EVENTS CENTER

PERMITTED ITEMS

- Binoculars (no cases)
- Cell phones and pagers
- Small cameras (no cases)
- Strollers—Please check it at Guest Services (section 117) or with a platform attendant
- Seat cushions (no pockets, pouches, zippers)
- Compact umbrellas (no large umbrellas, no metal tips)
- Medical needs items will be searched and tagged by a MSU police officer (must be in a clear gallon plastic bag)

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- We are not able to store any of these items. For the safety and enjoyment of all our fans, please leave prohibited items at home or in your vehicle.
- Purses or bags of any size
 - Weapons (including pocket knives of any size)
 - Containers (including aerosol cans)
 - Flagpoles, Balloons
 - Laser pointers
 - Noise makers
 - All beverages (including bottled water)
 - All food
 - Coolers, thermoses, cups, bottles, cans, flasks
 - Camcorders, tripods, selfie-sticks, cases
 - Chair backs
 - Projectiles & other potentially dangerous objects
 - All animals (except service animals older than 1 year)
 - Use of tobacco products

PRACTICE & TEAMWORK REDUCES SPONTANEOUS STRESS

BY AMY PIPER

The team members from Holley Navarre Intermediate in Navarre, Florida was sitting under a staircase in Wells Hall on Friday waiting for their turn at the Spontaneous Competition. They appeared calm and relaxed before going into what is known as a stressful part of Odyssey. Spontaneous is an unplanned and unknown event. Those unknown factors can make it scary and stressful, but this team had it handled. Their key to success is practice and teamwork.



Since the team has been practicing since September, Taylor Netro said, "We have a lot of fun with spontaneous."

Brayden Chiusano said, "Competing in spontaneous has been very stressful, but since we have practiced, it has made it seem easier and less stressful." One of their coaches, Tondi Terhaar, believes that practice has made the team more mentally ready to receive the problems.

Braedon Bautista says, "When practicing we tried to make more creative responses, and the coaches gave us harder problems."

To take away some of the unknown, the team plans what they can. For example, this team has a set order for responding. Gabrielle Johnson explained the technique that they use for answering, "We pick the order we will respond ahead of time to avoid confusion during the competition."

To remove the unknown of the judging process, Janet Whittle explained, "To understand what the judges will be like, we judge each other." Abigail Hackl added, "By judging, we realized when we weren't following the directions."

DON'T MISS THE AFTER PARTIES!

The Odyssey of the Mind After Parties are an exceptional way for participants to end another fantastic year! The pre-teen (WHITE) After Party, hosted at the east end of Cherry Lane Park on the MSU Campus, allows kids to enjoy a variety of inflatable games, live music, and food and beverages! The teen (GREEN) After Party, hosted at the west end of Cherry Lane Park on the MSU Campus, provides an opportunity for teens to enjoy a variety of inflatable games, live music, and food and beverages! The Officials After Party, hosted at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, offers live music, hors d'oeuvres and desserts to their guests.

Come join the festivities at The Odyssey of the Mind After Parties and celebrate this year's success!

Janet Whittle says, "Because we are such good friends, we use teamwork if someone is stuck and can't come up with an answer. One team member will piggyback on another's answer, and no one becomes upset that you took their idea."

Taylor Netro said, "It's key to listen to each other's ideas and put them all together." Gabrielle Johnson agrees, "Teamwork and listening to each other is key."

This team relies on their teammates to help them through the stress. When the group is stressed, Coaches Tondi Terhaar and Michelle Cunningham say that the team lifts each other's spirits.

PROP STORAGE & DELIVERY INFORMATION

Prop Return Shipments:

- UPS/FedEx shipments require a prepaid return shipping label affixed to the each sealed package. Your shipment will not be returned without a legible return shipping label affixed to the package.
- Shipments returning via common carrier must be shipped "collect". Affix two copies of the bill of lading to your crate. Your shipment will not be returned without the completed bill of lading. Please do not schedule a pick-up with the trucking company. MSU Logistics will contact the freight carrier for pick-up Tuesday, May 28.
- All cartons must be properly labeled and secured.
- Place all return shipments in the prop staging area of your problem site 30 minutes after the end of your event on Saturday, May 25 for pick-up.
- MSU and Logistics are not responsible for shipment costs, documentation, and labeling or crate/parcel securement.
- Questions? Please contact 517-884-6082.

EVENT SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

- 8am-4pm . . . World Finals Competition**
See LT schedule
- 9am-noon Creativity Festival**
IM East
- 11am-4pm International Festival**
IM East
- 7:00pm-9:30pm . . . Awards Ceremony**
Breslin Center
- 9:30pm-12:30am Pre-teen Party**
Cherry Lane Park (white)
- 9:30pm-12:30am Teen Party**
Cherry Lane Park (green)
- 9:30pm-1am . . Coaches Recovery Party**
Kellogg Center, Big 10

SUNDAY

- 6am-noon Team Check-out**

CHECKOUT REMINDERS

We hope you are enjoying your stay at MSU! When ready to depart, place your conference card and key(s) back in the envelope in which it was given, and give it to your Team Leader. The Team Leader will put all of the conference cards and room key envelopes back in the large envelope and turn it in to the Service Center Representative. Please refer to the newsletter you received with your check-in packet on what you should do with your room linen. Safe travels!

HEALTH SERVICES

The University Physicians Office

Phone: (517) 884-6546
Located on the third floor or the Olin Memorial Health Center on East Circle Drive on the north edge of campus
Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

E.W. Sparrow Hospital

Phone: (517) 364-1000
Medical care is also available through the emergency department of Sparrow Hospital located at 1215 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Sparrow Urgent Care Center Okemos

Phone: (517) 381-4001
2248 Mt. Hope, Suite 106 (at Okemos Rd.)
Hours: Everyday, 10am-10pm

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SOUVENIR STATIONS

Don't miss out on the 2019 World Finals Souvenirs for sale throughout the event. Grab the new pin collection tote for those devoted pin collectors. Take something home with you to remember your experience as a participant!

SOUVENIR SALES WILL BE OPEN AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES & LOCATIONS:

International Center, Room 115
Saturday, May 25: 9:00am-5:00pm

IM East - Creativity Festival
Saturday, May 25: 9:00am-4:00pm
Creativity Festival: 9:00am-12:00pm
International Festival: 11:00am-4:00pm



4790 S. Hagadorn
East Lansing
517-336-0033

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