



# OMER'S

## World News



Saturday,  
May 30, 2009

Odyssey of the Mind 2009 World Finals • Iowa State University

## Odyssey of the Mind Graduation – Memories of a Lifetime

Graduates of all ages filed into Hilton Coliseum to the tune of Pomp and Circumstance to receive their well-earned certificates on Friday night. Harold Kurtz, graduation coordinator, led the annual commencement and greeted the graduates.

“Congratulations to each and every one of you. It’s always so much fun to see you out of your costumes – this is a moment of great pride and you’re such an inspiration to our future,” said Kurtz.

The guest speaker at the ceremony was the 2009 Odyssey of the Mind Spirit Award winner, Wayne Otte. As a long-time volunteer in Odyssey, he left the graduates with words of inspiration.

“You’ve completed one phase of your life and are moving on to another. Your experiences with Odyssey of

the Mind sets you apart from your peers as you focus on making things better, think outside of the box, use imaginative tools, and amazing creative thinking,” said Otte. “Use the relationships you’ve built through Odyssey to make your school and future work a better place. Congratulations to you and best wishes in all your future endeavors.”

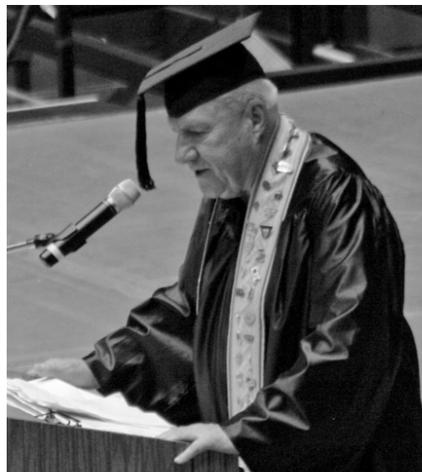
Dr. Sam Miklus, founder of Odyssey of the Mind, and OMER, Odyssey mascot, were also present during the event. Dr. Sam thanked the parents and coaches for all their guidance and support in each student’s life.

“This ceremony is our way of saying thank you for all your hard work – you’ll remember this day for your entire life,” said Dr. Sam. “Set your goals high, be all you can be, study hard, work hard and you can achieve your dreams!”

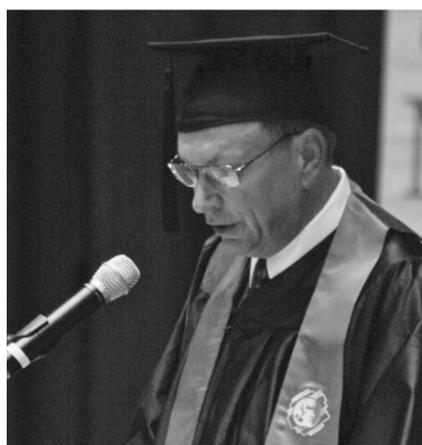
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Graduates attend the Odyssey of the Mind graduation ceremony on Friday night. The ceremony has been a tradition at World Finals since many participants are competing when graduation is occurring at home.



Dr. Sam Miklus congratulates the graduates at Friday’s ceremony in Hilton Coliseum.



Spirit Award winner Wayne Otte speaks at Friday’s graduation ceremony.

### Get Your Time Today for Airport Shuttles

If you are taking the return shuttle to the airport, pick up your shuttle departure time today between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Ames/ISU information booth in Memorial Union. This will be your last chance to get your departure time and location before leaving.

### World Finals schedule for Saturday and Sunday

Saturday, May 30, 2009		
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.	World Finals Competition	Various Locations
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Creativity Festival	Memorial Union
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	International Festival	Scheman Building, 1st Floor
10 a.m., 11:30 a.m.	NASA E-Theatre Presentations	Curtiss Auditorium
*7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	Awards Ceremony	Hilton Coliseum
9:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.	Pre-Teen Party	Lied Rec Center
9:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.	Teen Party	Memorial Union
9:30 p.m. – 1 a.m.	Coaches Recovery Party	Iowa State Center
Sunday, May 31, 2009		
6 a.m. – Noon	Housing Check-out	

\* Doors will open at 7 p.m. so everyone can be seated before the ceremony begins.

### New Location!

International Festival moves  
to the Scheman Building  
First Floor  
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Saturday



### Awards Ceremony Requires Tickets

Team participants and coaches have reserved tickets for the awards ceremony in their registration packets. All others who wish to attend the ceremony can pick up tickets in advance. They are available today between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the Odyssey of the Mind information booth located in Memorial Union. At 5:30 the remaining tickets will be at Hilton Coliseum at the West Entrance, lower level.

While the tickets are free, there is a limit to the number of tickets one person can pick up in order to keep an accurate count. Each person is allowed to pick up five tickets for immediate family members—otherwise one person per ticket will be issued. The tickets must be picked up before the ceremony, which begins at 7:30 p.m. in Hilton Coliseum. **Doors will open at 7 p.m. so everyone can be seated before the ceremony begins.**

#### Reminder:

All bags will be searched before entering the ceremony. There will be two lines, one for participants bringing bags and one for those without.

### Transformation Is in Style in Coaches’ Competition

It’s not often that you see a caterpillar transform into a colorful butterfly right before your eyes, or a pauper turn into an elegant princess. These were just some of the creative costumes on display at the Coaches’ Competition Friday night at Hilton Coliseum.

For this year’s competition, the coaches first paraded around the arena wearing costumes that captured

the attention of the audience and judges. Coaches then strutted their stuff a second time around while walking, transforming their original costume into something new.

“This is the first year we are trying the reverse costume idea,” said Charlie Kiesel of New York. “It’s a bit different, and it’s good for the teams to see their coaches get a little wild.”

(continued on page 2)



## Important Phone Numbers for World Finals

Emergency ONLY  
(fire, police, ambulance)  
**911**

To make an on-campus call dial 4-XXXX  
To call off-campus dial 8 + all digits  
(Area Code 515)

ISU Public Safety  
294-4428

ISU/Ames Information Center  
294-5590

World Finals Information  
294-5591

Prop Storage Information  
294-5592

ISU's HELPVAN  
294-4444 or  
4-4444 On campus

Campus Information Center  
294-4357 (294-HELP)

ISU Student Health Center  
294-7973

Mary Greeley Medical Center  
239-2011

ISU Police  
294-4428

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Printing and Distribution  
Daily Freeman Journal  
Webster City, Iowa

## Coaches

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Forty-seven coaches and their teams walked the walk in their unique, hand-crafted outfits. Some were simple and witty, such as two coaches who held up a sign asking "Coaches, what's the reverse of being stressed?" with "Desserts!" as the answer. Others were vividly colorful and imaginative, such as the night's first place winner, the peacock that transformed into an octopus.

Diane Wilson got her idea for the peacock/octopus costume from friends and neighbors. "My mom made this costume completely by herself," said proud daughter Keely Wilson, OotM World Finalist. "Once we found out we were headed to Worlds, Mom got to work."

Other teams had to make their costumes right before finals. "My mom, sister and I worked on our costume from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. for two nights before coming to Iowa," said Madison Main of Georgia.

Throughout the night, audience members showed their enthusiasm for the different costumes with loud cheers and thunderous applause which determined each coach's overall score. The top 10 finalists were chosen based on style and reversibility of costume. The peacock/octopus costume from Texas took home first place finishes in both style and reversibility.



Diane Wilson, Texas, a volunteer and the winner of the Coaches' Competition, wore a homemade peacock suit that reversed into an octopus at Friday's event in Hilton Coliseum.



The Coaches' Competition brought out the creative side of the team coaches with costumes that were reversible while participants were in motion.

## Graduation

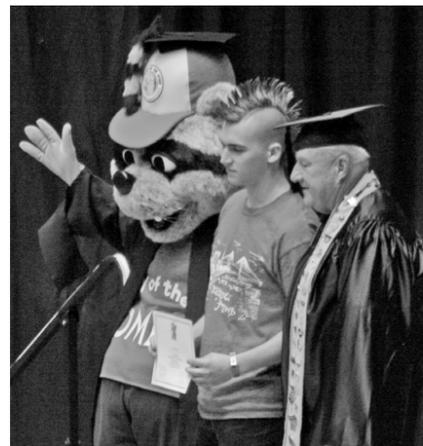
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Each graduate received an Odyssey of the Mind graduate certificate and had a picture taken with Omer and Dr. Sam.

"As a parent it's wonderful that Odyssey provides a graduation ceremony," said Beatrice Showman of Florida. "These kids have been together as a team for so long, it's just as special to have the ceremony here at World Finals as in their own high school."

Even though some students' time participating in Odyssey of the Mind is over, their dedication to the organization is not. Florida high school student Adrienne Showman has participated in OotM for 10 years and hopes to continue her Odyssey career as a judge.

"After four years of hard work it's nice to be able to end my high school career at Odyssey and to have an actual ceremony," said Shane McKibben, high school graduate of Florida who will be attending the University of Florida in the fall.



OMER and Dr. Sam greet a graduate at Friday night's ceremony.

## Plaques Awarded in Float and Banner Parade Thursday

The top 10 banner and float finalists in Thursday evening's Float and Banner Parade received plaque awards, not pin sets as reported Friday. Complete 2009 World Finals pin sets will be awarded to three COU raffle winners in addition to the OotM T-shirt quilt prior to the Awards Ceremony tonight.

## Judges Get a Unique Perspective on Competitions

While audiences sit back and enjoy the entertaining competitions this week, the judges get to enjoy them as well, but in a more technical way.

"If you're in the audience, you might not quite understand what's going on because you watch the skit but don't realize there are five pages of constraints the teams have to operate on," said Tom Hansen, head judge for Division II Teach Yer Creature. "It's not like teams are told what to do, but they have to have certain things happen. The creative part is in figuring out ways for those to happen."

Although there are several types of OotM judges, including the head judge, problem judge, staging area judge, style judge, and weigh-in judge, all focus on how involved the kids are during their performance. "We're looking for the way they work together, and the ideas and expressions they come up with that are interesting and unexpected," said Hansen. "Overall, it's most rewarding to see their self confidence grow and see how they overcome challenges."

Judges look for a number of things during each eight-minute skit. Several judges keep an eye out to make sure each team fulfills the requirements of the problem. There are also style judges who critique a team's elaboration and/or enhancement of the problem. According to Hansen, style is the icing on the cake that makes each team's skit unique. Finally, there are facilitators, including time keepers, stagehands, and score checkers.

After a performance, judges speak with the team members. "It's a great way to get a feel for their level of excitement and interest and how proud they are to be involved," said Hansen. Finally, the judges deliberate and go over the team's scores.

At World Finals, judges devote hours of time and energy to judging competitions. "We are judging 27 competitions today so it's a bit overwhelming, but I love it," said Division II Teach Yer Creature time keeper Tina Lyczak.

OotM judges can be as young as 18, but Hansen said no matter the age, it's important for everyone to find the kid in themselves when judging a competition.

"I think you have to understand kids and remember your chance to be a child. It helps to remember how we thought about things at that age in order to help guide us as judges."

## Spontaneous Challenge



Team members of an international team from Gdańsk, Poland, are excited while registering for their spontaneous problems.



The team from Bay Lane Middle School, Muskego, Wis., creates a tunnel for teammates to walk through after completing the Spontaneous Challenge Friday.

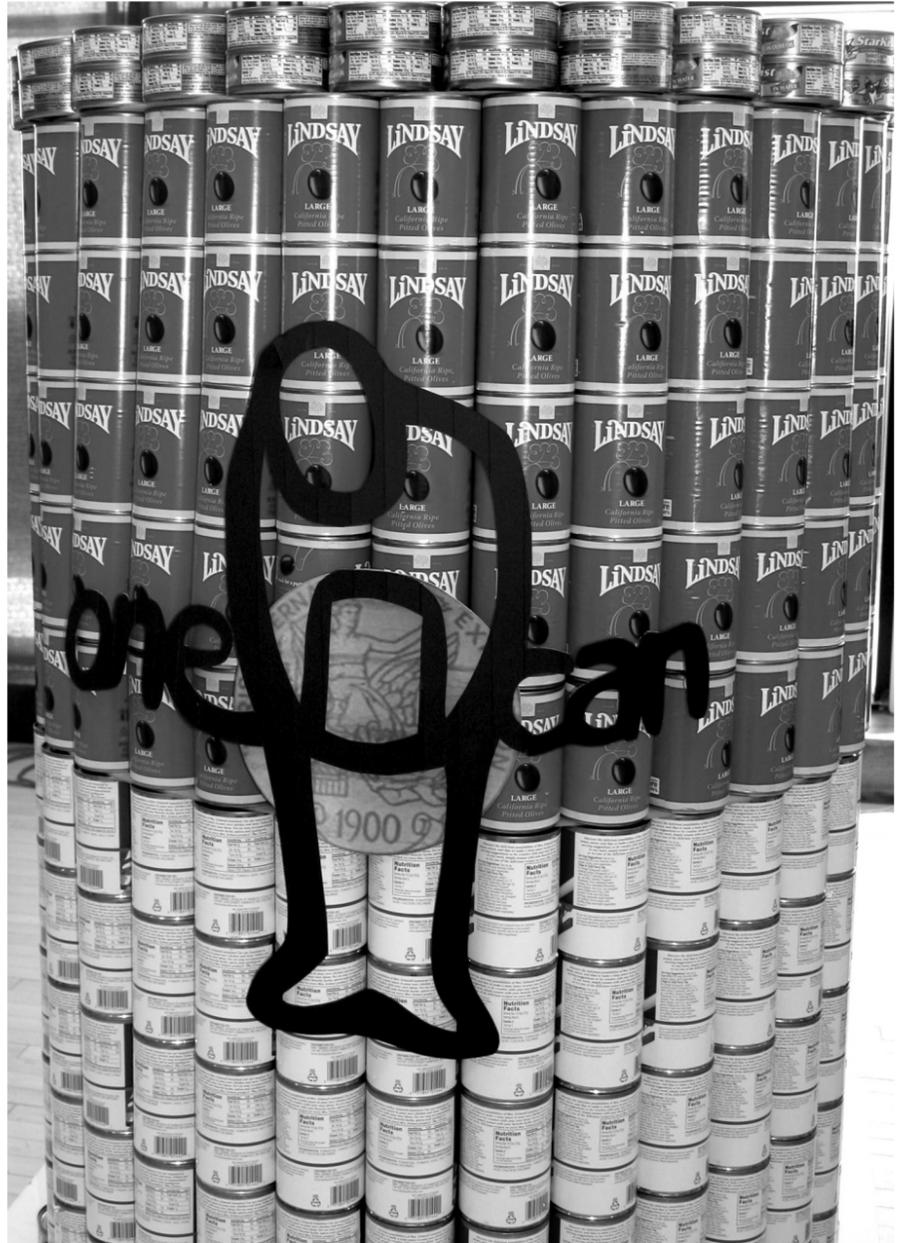


Division II team members from North Attleborough Middle School, Mass., have fun cleaning the mud off their feet after their Spontaneous Challenge on Friday afternoon.



Tom Nuovo, coach of the Mater Christi School, Division II, from Burlington, Vt., is dragged through the mud by his team after the completion of the spontaneous challenge.

## Canstruction



The "One Can" Motto of this year's Creativity Award winner, Canstruction, is on a structure built out of food cans for the hungry.

## Quilt and Pin Raffles Support World Finalists

If you haven't purchased your quilt or pin raffle tickets yet, there's still time! Tickets for the 2009 World Finals pin collection and T-shirt quilt can be purchased at the Creativity Festival, International Festival and prior to the Awards Ceremony. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5, 15 for \$10, and 30 for \$20.

All proceeds from the raffles support Creative Opportunities Unlimited (COU), which raises funds to help Odyssey of the Mind teams. Each year, COU awards academic scholarships to OotM participants, and assists both domestic and foreign teams with travel expenses, based on need, so they can attend World Finals.



Quilt raffle supports scholarships.

"We try to give an opportunity to those that would not be able to make it to World Finals without that kind of help," said Harold Kurtz, COU Board Vice President. "In past World Finals, the pin raffle has raised more than \$5,000 and the quilt more than \$2,000 to benefit COU."

Funds raised by COU are used exclusively to benefit students and the non-profit organizations offering the Odyssey of the Mind program in local areas. Fundraising efforts also provide 26 scholarships to high school seniors in addition to 100 grant packages totaling \$60,000 for teams attending the 2009 World Finals, which covers the cost of housing.

The raffle winners of the Odyssey of the Mind T-shirt quilt and three 2009 World Finals pin sets will be announced prior to the Awards Ceremony tonight.

For more information about COU and how to make a donation, visit the COU Web site: [www.creativeopportunitiesunlimited.org](http://www.creativeopportunitiesunlimited.org).



## OMER Dining News

Your wristband is good for entry into the dining centers and special events.

<b>Knapp-Storms Dining</b>	<b>Green</b>
<b>*Union Drive Marketplace</b>	<b>Orange</b>
<b>Linden</b>	<b>Yellow</b>
<b>Oak-Elm</b>	<b>Red</b>
<b>Scheman</b>	<b>Pink</b>
<b>Memorial Union Food Court</b>	<b>Blue</b>

(\* Note: Times on the Union Drive Marketplace menus are incorrect. Hours at that location will be the same as other locations, listed below.)

If your wristband is lost or broken, replacement bands are available at each conference desk. Please bring your broken wristband with you.

All food served by the ISU Dining Centers is available on an unlimited basis. No food, beverages or dishes are to be taken out of the university dining rooms, except for sack meals.

Sack meals are available Saturday, May 30, for all participants with meal plans who are going on sightseeing trips or have competition conflicts during the noon meal. Meals can be requested the day before at your dining unit's checker stand.

There will be three pick-up locations for the meals: Carver Hall (main floor lobby), Forker Building (west side lobby) and MacKay Hall (room 23, Tea Room). Participants need to request their pick-up location at the time they sign up for their lunch. **Pickup times are from 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

### Dining Service for Saturday, May 30

Breakfast	6:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Sack Meal	10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. (at pickup locations)
Lunch	11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Dinner	4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

### Dining Service for Sunday, May 31

Breakfast	6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
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When you purchase a 22 oz. souvenir ISU mug at one of our C-stores, you can use it for a 25-cent discount off the regular price when you refill during World Finals. C-stores participating include West Side Market at Union Drive Community Center, Eastside Market at M-W-L Commons, Hawthorn Market & Café at the Frederiksen Court Community Center and the M.U. Market & Café at Memorial Union.

## NASA E-Theatre Presentation a Big Hit!

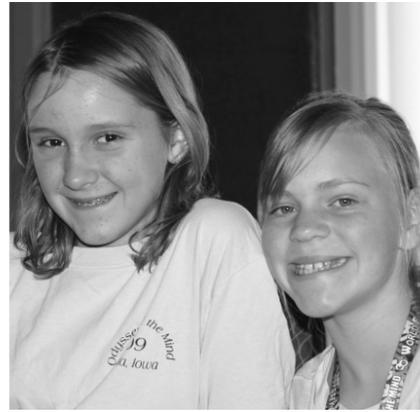
Steve Graham, NASA senior outreach specialist, had several large crowds fill Curtiss Hall during his NASA E-Theatre presentation. NASA has been a sponsor at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals for nine years, and Graham says he believes it's important for students to study planet Earth.

Graham began with a simulation demonstration of NASA's satellite launches. Called artificial satellites, these mechanisms are classified according to their mission including weather research, scientific research, navigation, communications, Earth observation, and military.

"The United States' satellites study planet Earth and orbit in all directions," said Graham. "The satellites' direction depends on what NASA wants to study."

Through a satellite imagery demonstration, Graham wowed the audience by showing how a satellite can focus on Earth 435 miles from space. With the ability to focus on an object with a maximum resolution of one meter, NASA is able to monitor the Earth with unbelievable accuracy.

After zooming in on the nation's capitol building, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, and the Hollywood sign in California, Graham then showed the students a narrated version of the 2005 hurricane season through a scientific visualization studio. U.S. satellites monitored all 27 hurricanes that occurred in the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico.



Danielle Nardini, 12, and Mandy Nossaman, 12, Pella, Iowa, attended NASA's E-Theater presentation Friday in Curtiss Auditorium. The presentation included imagery of Earth's atmosphere's characteristics.

"Our satellites have the ability to monitor a wide variety of atmospheric characteristics," said Graham. "They can monitor ocean temperatures, cloud coverage, vertical rain structure, lightning and hot towers."

Other satellite functions include the monitoring of the ozone layer, global temperatures, photosynthesis, deforestation, weather systems, Earth at night and the sun in an ultraviolet light.

"The presentation was very informative as it increased awareness about Earth and utilized science – much like many of the Odyssey problems," said Stoney Fortenberry of Batesville, Ark. "NASA presented the information in a way that is hard to show in classrooms and I think it was beneficial for the kids."

For more information on the NASA presentation, please visit [www.svs.gsfc.nasa.gov](http://www.svs.gsfc.nasa.gov).

### Residence Hall Checkout Information

To make sure your checkout goes as smoothly as possible, here is a checklist to complete before leaving:

- Leave all used and unused linens, towels, and washcloths in the room.
- Return any moved room furnishings to their original locations.
- Remove any personal items left in the room. Often, belongings are found behind doors, in closets, under and behind beds, in drawers, etc., so take a few minutes to double-check your room.
- Close and latch all windows.
- Turn off all lights.
- Close and lock your room.
- Turn in your keys to your coach.

Coaches, please collect all team keys and place them in the large manila envelope you received at check-in. Fasten the envelope and return it to the appropriate 24-hour hall desk in your area.



Kevin Garza, 11, from Mexico, shows the strength of his character in front of Curtiss Hall on Friday.



Maria Brown prepares for her Division III team's interpretation of The Lost Labor of Heracles.



Division I Harmony Team from Seoul, South Korea, relaxes after a successful performance in Superstition.



Logan Kelly, 10, Alexa Miller, 10, and Jenn Mandato, 10, of New Jersey work their booth at Friday's Creativity Festival.



Team members from Michigan geared up to parade their state banner titled, "Michigan rocks!" in Thursday's Float and Banner Parade. Team members include Sarina Rabideau, Marc Rabideau, Mia Rabideau, James Rabideau, Izzi Rabideau, Cole Murphy, Davis Murphy, Brooke Baugal, Benny Lawson, and Ashley Luna.