



OMER'S

World News

2014
WORLD
ODYSSEY OF THE
MIND OF THE
FINALS
Ames, IA

Friday, May 30, 2014

Odyssey of the Mind 2014 World Finals • Iowa State University

Parade celebrates culture

The Odyssey of the Mind World Finals Float and Banner Parade took place Thursday, May 29 in the Hilton Coliseum.

Each state and country designed banners and floats that capture the essence of the teams' homelands. Many of the floats featured themes that the states and countries are famous for.

The parade celebrated the merging of cultures that the World Finals competition brings together from all around the nation and world.

Many different styles of banners were walked across the stadium floor and were accompanied by team members in costumes. Many of the costumes worn by all of the teams emphasized the float and banner themes and many represented the native cultures.

Please add this quote at the end:

Fern Brown, co-coordinator for the parade, believes the event is a great way for teams to learn about each other.

"Not only do participants get to show off their pride for their state or country, but they get a new appreciation for others. It's really great to see such creativity and the camaraderie each year," said Brown.

Banner Finalists

Japan
Togo
California
Florida
Kansas
Maryland/ Washington D.C.
Maine
Michigan
North Carolina
Pennsylvania

Float Finalists

China
India
Mexico
Arkansas
Delaware
Georgia
New York
Texas
Virginia
Wisconsin



Creativity Festival is in full swing

The Odyssey of the Mind Creativity Festival is in full swing at the Lied Recreation Center on Iowa State Campus.

Music is constantly played through the loud speakers, pumping up student's energy levels through the activities.

Many teams have booths with activities and crafts for fellow students to participate in, including making balloon hats and face painting.

Inflatable rides are set up for students to bounce around in, and platforms are set up where students, decked up in padded helmets, can joust and try to knock each other off their platforms.

The magic show will be performed again Friday and includes tricks that will keep students on their toes. The hypnotist will perform each day at the festival, which runs through Saturday.

The festival provides students with the perfect opportunity to meet new friends and trade pins as they work to add to their collections.

Prop return shipment reminder

Just a reminder that if you have props or other materials you want shipped home, today (Friday) is the last day to make arrangements for Iowa State University to handle those shipments. Any items left in the prop rooms following the conclusion of competition will be discarded.

To make these arrangements, you will need to pick up an orange shipping sticker and turn in all the completed information for a prepaid or C.O.D. shipment for your props at the Prop Information Desk in the Memorial Union before 4 p.m. today. Questions? Please call (515) 294-8484 and ask for Norm or Jared.

OMER Dining News

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

CONVERSATIONS DINING (OAK-ELM): Yellow

UNION DRIVE MARKETPLACE: Orange

HILTON COLISEUM: Pink

MEMORIAL UNION FOOD COURT: Blue

SEASONS MARKETPLACE: Red

Friday, May 30 to Saturday, May 31

BREAKFAST: 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

LUNCH: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

DINNER: 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 1

BREAKFAST: 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

LUNCH*: 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

(Seasons only)

DINNER*: 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. (Seasons only)

*Only for those with a post-conference package.

Box Meals

Box meals are available Thursday, May 29 through Saturday, May 31, for all participants with meal plans who have competition conflicts during the noon meal.

- Box meals will be provided on a first come, first served basis.
- There will be four pick-up locations for the meals.

Meals can be picked up at the entrances to the following dining centers: Conversations Dining in Oak-Elm Hall, Seasons Marketplace in the Maple-Willow-Larch Commons, Union Drive Marketplace in the Union Drive Community Center and the Memorial Union Food Court.

- Pickup times are from 7 to 10 a.m.
- Participants are limited to one box meal per day and a group representative with a wrist band must pick up their meals.
- The meals will consist of a sandwich, chips, whole fruit, dessert, water and condiments.
- Box meals should be eaten within four hours following pickup to meet food safety guidelines.

Team Photos

Plan to get your team photo taken during World Finals. All teams photographed will be in the yearbook.

Photos will be taken at the Creativity Festival (Lied Rec Center)

- Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Saturday: 9 a.m. to noon

Photos will be taken at Hilton Coliseum

- Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Saturday: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Team picture prices:

- 5x7 — \$10
- 8x10 — \$18
- Key Chain package — \$20 (includes a 5x7 team photo with two photo key chains)
- Odyssey Yearbook — \$20

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Graduation ceremony at Hilton tonight followed by contest for coaches and officials

Odyssey of the Mind Graduation and the Coaches and Officials Competition are tonight. Not only can you be a part of an important rite of passage, but you can see grown-ups compete like the kids.

Dr. Sam and OMER will be

at graduation to help students of all ages celebrate. Many miss their school graduations to be at World Finals, so it's a special event for them!

Afterwards, the coaches will show off their creativity in a problem developed just for them. The audience will

choose the winner if there's a tie, so be sure to come support your favorite coach or official.

Both events are at Hilton Coliseum starting at 7 p.m. Graduation participants should be ready to lineup in the tunnel area by 6:30 p.m.



Don't miss your chance to take home a very special souvenir this year

Creative Opportunities Unlimited (COU) is holding a quilt raffle to raise money for its scholarship fund.

The COU quilt is a special keepsake made from Odyssey of the Mind tee shirts from across

the U.S. Participants can buy raffle tickets at both souvenir sites and it will be on display at the Memorial Union site.

The winning ticket number will be posted at the Awards Ceremony.



The Odyssey Angels from Rockford Michigan gather at their booth in the Odyssey of the Mind Creativity Festival Thursday May 29. The group project, Project Connect and Engage, helped elderly people learn how to use modern technology to stay in touch with the world.

The Angels from Michigan

The Odyssey Angels from Rockford, Mich., set up a booth for Odyssey of the Mind's Creativity Festival that displayed all of the hard work they put into the project.

The team is hosting a drawing and will be giving away a tablet each day during the festival. The tablets for the give-away were provided by Wolverine World Wide with the \$1,000 sponsorship.

The girls helped senior citizens in their community learn how to utilize technology in many ways. Susan Maxwell, a member of the Rockford senior citizen's facility, decided to join the Odyssey Angels in their adventure to World Finals as a way to thank them.

"It was such a gift and you must pay it forward," said Maxwell who volunteers and drives for other seniors living in the same facility.

She said she was diagnosed with cancer and didn't have the time to worry about technology, but now that she's getting better she is glad the Angels helped her learn to stay in touch with the world.

Cheryl Micklus, Program Director for the Odyssey Angels, said that she chose the group because of its genuine nature.

"We chose this group because it is so simple, yet so thoughtful," said Micklus.

When Micklus checked the reference for the team, she had received an email from Maxwell. The email said that it was the first

she had ever sent, and she praised the students that helped her.

Renne Wyman, team coach, said the most inspiring part of the project was watching the students bond with the older residents of the facility.

"I never dreamed that the bond with the seniors would impact my daughter and the Angels the way it did," said Wyman.

She said that her daughter is closer with Bud, one of the residents, than her own grandparents.

Ashlyn Devries also enjoyed the new bond that was formed in the project.

"Being able to bond with the elders made me smile," she said. "Bud and I became really good friends and he still texts me."

Check out the International Festival

World Finals is a great opportunity to learn about other cultures. Want to make the most of it? Be sure to stop by the International Festival on Saturday, where teams from around the world will be selling items from their home countries.

It's a win-win: the international teams raise money that helps to fund their trip to World Finals, and everyone gets another chance to experience cultural exchange.

The International Festival will be Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. in the Lied Recreation Center.

Awards Ceremony details

Saturday night at 7:30 p.m. will be the Awards Ceremony at Hilton Coliseum. Plan to join us as the winners for each problem will be announced. During the Awards Ceremony, the creativity award winner, Bob Partington, will also be recognized. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the line-up will begin at 6:45 p.m.

Check out the art on campus

Iowa State University is the home to the Brunnier Art Museum, located in the Scheman Building, the Christian Petersen Art Museum, located in Morrill Hall and the Farm House Museum, located on central campus.

Enjoy a variety of exhibits, including several from the university's permanent collection, along with a variety of exhibitions on loan from other collections. The museums are free and open to the public.

For more information visit www.museums.iastate.edu.

Hours

- **Brunnier Art Museum:** Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 1 to 4 p.m.
- **Christian Petersen Art Museum:** Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Farm House Museum:** Friday, noon to 4 p.m.

If you would like to take a self-guided tour of the Art on Campus, check out the online map.

Important phone numbers for the 2014 World Finals

EMERGENCY ONLY:

(fire, police, ambulance) 911

The local area code for Ames is **515**

ISU POLICE/PUBLIC SAFETY: (515) 294-4428

ISU/AMES INFORMATION CENTER: (515) 294-8205

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND INFORMATION: (515) 294-8206

PROP STORAGE INFORMATION: (515) 294-3740

ISU'S HELP VAN: (515) 294-4444 or 4-4444 (from a campus telephone)

CAMPUS INFORMATION CENTER: (515) 294-4357 (294-HELP)

ISU THIELEN STUDENT HEALTH CENTER: (515) 294-5801

MCFARLAND AFTER HOURS CARE CLINIC: (515) 956-4044

MARY GREELEY MEDICAL CENTER (NON-EMERGENCY SITUATIONS): (515) 239-2011

Odyssey World Finals Schedule

Friday, May 30, 2012

8 A.M. TO 7 P.M.: World Finals Competitions, Various Locations

9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.: Creativity Festival, Lied Recreation Center

9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.: Souvenir Sales, Memorial Union, Campanile Room; Lied Recreation Center

10:30 A.M. TO NOON: Dr. Sam Book Signing, Lied Recreation Center

1 P.M. TO 1:30 P.M.: Odyssey Angels Presentation, Lied Recreation Center

***7 P.M. TO 9 P.M.:** Graduation/Coaches Competition, Hilton Coliseum

*Tunnel line-up at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 31, 2012

8 A.M. TO 4 P.M.: World Finals Competition, Various Locations

9 A.M. TO NOON: Creativity Festival, Lied Recreation Center

9 A.M. TO 5 P.M.: Souvenir Sales, Memorial Union, Campanile Room; Lied Recreation Center (9 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

11 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M.: Odyssey Angels Presentation, Lied Recreation Center

NOON TO 4 P.M.: International Festival, Lied Recreation Center

***7:30 P.M. TO 9:30 P.M.:** Awards Ceremony, Hilton Coliseum

9:30 P.M. TO 12:30 A.M.: Pre-teen Party, Lied Recreation Center

9:30 P.M. TO 12:30 A.M.: Teen Party, Memorial Union

9:30 P.M. TO 1 A.M.: Coaches Recovery/Officials Party, Iowa State Center

*Tunnel line-up at 6:45 p.m.

Buddy teams are linked by the past

Buddy teams have become a regular tradition in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. This year, two buddy teams were reunited.

Twenty three years ago in 1991, Amber Thurnau met up with an assigned buddy team from Potsdam, Germany. Through the buddy team system she met Thomas Off, a member of the Germany team.

After the 1991 World Finals, the two stayed in contact through letters. The two became buddies in the 1992 World Finals as well.

As this year's World Finals approached, Thurnau reached out to Off on Facebook and discovered they both were coaching their 10-year-old sons through the 35th Odyssey of the Mind competition.

Thurnau and Off had their students write letters back and forth before entering World Finals. The two teams are now officially considered buddy teams.

Off also met his wife at an Odyssey of the Mind World Finals in 1994. They now have children and the whole family is participating in this year's World Finals.



Amber Thurnau, fifth from right in back row, and Thomas Off, fourth from right in back row, reunited 23 years after meeting during the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals in 1991 to coach their sons' teams in this year's event at Iowa State University in Ames. PHOTO BY KELSEY JOHNSON/AMES TRIBUNE

Mansfield Award winner

Arizona is this year's winner of the Max Mansfield Award. The award was created by Creative Competitions Inc. in recognition of membership growth.

Deanna Day, Arizona association director, said that Arizona's membership count has grown a significant amount in the last year.

"We're up to 102 memberships from last year's 67," Day said.

Day explained that each membership covers a school or district and can hold up to ten teams.

"To learn how to work in teams is an important thing. To compete globally, you must work in teams," Day said, "the transfer of this learning is how they make it in the real world."

Day said the schools in Arizona include common core curriculum, but also implement the STEM initiative, which



Deanna Day, Arizona association director, is proud her state is this year's Max Mansfield award winner. PHOTO BY KELSEY JOHNSON/AMES TRIBUNE

represents science, technology, engineering and math.

"The three main skills learned are creative problem-solving, critical thinking and creativity," Day said.

These are all things Odyssey of the Mind encourages.

This award is Creative Competitions Inc.'s way of honoring Max Mansfield's years of service to the program as well as to recognize Odyssey of the Mind associations attempting to do the same.

Pick up your return airport shuttle ticket today

If you did not receive your return shuttle information during team registration, please stop by the Ames/ISU information desk at the Memorial Union from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. today (Friday) or from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. tomorrow (Saturday), to pick up your return airport shuttle ticket.

All return shuttles will depart from the west side of the Memorial Union. CyRide will begin running at 3 a.m. on Sunday to pick up groups from their residence halls to take them to the Union. Teams staying in hotels as part of a World Finals housing plan will be picked up at their hotel 15 minutes after the scheduled departure time from the Memorial Union.

For more detailed information, please stop by the Ames/ISU information desk in the Memorial Union.