

OotM's WORLD NEWS



Odyssey of the Mind World Finals 2011 | Saturday, May 28, 2011

Schedule of Saturday's events

Saturday, May 28

8 a.m. — noon | Team Registration | Ritchie Coliseum

10 a.m. — 7 p.m. | World Finals Competition | Across the campus

Noon — 5 p.m. | Creativity Festival | Reckord Armory

1 p.m., 2:30 and 4 | NASA E-theatre presentations | Hoff Theater

9 a.m., 10:15, 11:30, 1:30 p.m., and 2:45 | NASA classroom activities | Stamp Student Union

7:30 p.m. — 9 | Float & Banner Parade | Cole Field House



More than 14,000 participants packed Comcast Center last night to celebrate the start of World Finals in the annual Opening Ceremonies event. 856 teams are participating this year's competition, the largest in the history of OotM.

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

Teams welcomed in Opening Ceremonies to largest World Finals competition ever

Brightly colored signs of all sizes filled the corridor of the Comcast Center Friday night as teams from 14 different countries and 34 states marched across the arena's floor for the opening ceremony of the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. With a total of 856 teams and more than 14,000 participants, this year marks the largest World Finals in the history of OotM - and there was no shortage of energy and spirit last night.

Decked out in crazy hats, wacky colors, uniforms, accessories and - of course - pins, many of the kids were faced with a tough challenge before entering Comcast Arena - how would they walk onto the floor, before thousands of other cheering participants?

Would they walk triumphantly? Comically? Quickly? Loudly?

"My friend's pants are going to fall down [while walking across]," said 12-year-old Parker Donaldson from Littleton, Co.

Others planned to be a little less silly.

"[We'll be] waving the flag," said Mateusz Cetner, a 17-year-old from Poland.

But regardless of how they entered, the crowd was



A team from Colorado prepares to enter Comcast Arena during Friday night's Opening Ceremonies.

deafening as the teams walked out onto the floor. For the first time, teams from India, Switzerland and Togo joined Odyssey of the Mind World Finals.

University of Maryland President Wallace Loh, who is

see **OPENING**, page 3

Creativity Award goes to Newseum

D.C.-based journalism museum awarded for interactive exhibits

During Opening Ceremonies last night, the Newseum — a journalism museum located in downtown Washington, D.C. — received the annual Odyssey of the Mind Creativity Award.

The award, said OotM program director Sammy Micklus, goes to an individual or organization that has used creativity to benefit a community. And with its hands-on exhibits that take visitors into the heart of the news media, the Newseum was a clear candidate for this year's prize, he said.

"This year, we have an organization that benefits the world," Micklus said before presenting the award to Newseum Director of Education Barbara McCormack, who accepted it on behalf of the museum.

"Overall, the First Amendment is the cornerstone of creativity in my mind," McCormack said. "It's what allows people to express themselves and to think differently...our entire museum emulates that."

McCormack added that the Newseum's displays seek to encourage creative thinking.

"We have interactive exhibits throughout the museum that help kids engage with our content and an entire interactive floor dedicated to just that," she said. "Everything we do is thinking outside the box."

On the floor, McCormack described, visitors can step in front of a microphone and camera and experience what it's like to be a TV reporter in the museum's NBC News Interactive Newsroom. Visitors can also tackle an ethical issue just as an editor would at the Bancroft Family Ethics Center.

The museum also features over a dozen galleries, including a daily exhibit of about 80 international newspaper front pages, a 9/11-memorial display and a collection of Pulitzer Prize-winning photographs. A 74-foot-tall engraving espousing the ideals of the First Amendment is etched on the outside of the museum, beckoning passersby to step

see **NEWSEUM**, page 3

With the help of duct tape, team makes it to World Finals competition

Like many teams at Odyssey of the Mind World Finals, it took one team a lot of hard work and duct tape to get to the competition.

Six students — Ashley Chollar, Anna Lockwood, Arabella Reece, Tristan Reece, Taylor Shimono and Lynn Varner — from Cole Canyon Elementary School in Southern California fundraised for their trip to World Finals by selling about 180 duct tape bracelets and "purllets," purses the size of wallets, to raise money for their journey to the University of Maryland.

"We pretty much got the idea because Ashley [Chollar] really enjoyed duct tape and we sat there at lunch one day and just decided what to do with it," 11-

year-old teammate Lynn Varner said.

The team set up lemonade stands to sell their duct tape creations and worked every day during lunch at school to make the bracelets and purllets.

"I made one for myself, but we brought a lot of them to school," Varner said. "We had lemonade stands any free day we had. We would set one up and go out...[one] time we raised over \$100."

The team began preparing for the competition as an extracurricular on top of their school work once or twice each week starting in August—two months earlier than in the past.

see **TEAM**, page 2



Get your Odyssey of the Mind World Finals souvenirs!

OotM has packed up all of its merchandise and brought it to College Park just for you. The souvenir shop is located in the Atrium of the Stamp Student Union and the Reckord Armory. They feature everything from T-shirts and sweatshirts to hats, pins and OMER stuffed animals.

Be sure to stop by during their hours listed below before your journey home.

Stamp Student Union hours:

Saturday: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sunday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Reckord Armory hours:

Saturday: 12 to 5 p.m.

Sunday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Odyssey screams for ice cream!

University of Maryland unveils new flavor just for World Finals

These next few days are going to be scorchers and what better way to cool down than a nice ice cold scoop of ice cream?

The University of Maryland has created a special ice cream blend just for World Finals called Odyssey Obsession. You can try the flavor, along with a dozen others, at The Dairy in the university's Visitor's Center right off of Route One.

Created by Jeff Russo, a chef at the university, Odyssey Obsession is loosely based off of the summer dessert favorite S'mores. The ice cream has a vanilla base and then is sprinkled with chunks of Graham Cracker and tiny marshmallows to complete the masterpiece.

The University does not have the equipment to separate ice creams like machines at big companies do, so Russo had to improvise ways to separate tastes and textures. The S'mores idea was the perfect mesh. The smooth ice cream is complemented by the subtle crunch of the cracker and the marshmallows add a little gooey surprise to each bite.

Russo said it was a challenge to create an



Try your very own scoop of Odyssey Obsession in The Dairy, next to the Visitors Center!

ice cream for such a broad age group, since Odyssey of the Mind spans from elementary

school to high school, not to mention he had to take into account parents' taste buds as well.

"I like it quite a bit ... I never really got adult taste," Russo said.

Russo tried a bunch of different combinations by playing with chocolates and fruits and then putting the final products through taste tests.

"It takes about three times to make it the way I want it," Russo said of his trial and error method. Every once and a while, though, he will get it just right on the first try, he said.

Pat and John Tino, whose granddaughter Emily Tino is competing on a Division Three New Jersey team, tried the flavor at The Dairy on Thursday and gave it two thumbs up.

The flavor was commissioned by a joint committee between the university's Dining Services and Odyssey of the Mind.

"We do something special, something we won't do for anyone else," said Russo of the unique flavor that will only last until the end of World Finals.

Try the flavor yourself in The Dairy from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Pat and John Tino, whose granddaughter Emily Tino is competing on a Division Three New Jersey team, tried the new Odyssey Obsession ice cream flavor in The Dairy on Thursday. The flavor was especially created for World Finals 2011 by the University of Maryland.

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TEAM

from page 1

Lori Chollar, a coach for the team, has coached all three of her daughters in Odyssey of the Mind competitions. She coached her oldest daughter for one year and then coached her middle daughter for two years. This is her youngest daughter's second year competing in Odyssey.

While they have won at regional competitions and advanced to state competitions, this is their first ever journey to World Finals.

"It's been a very positive experience for all of the girls," Lori Chollar said. "This is huge for them because they are missing a week of school."



A team from Southern California fundraised for their trip to World Finals by selling about 180 duct tape creations. (From left to right: Anna Lockwood, Ashley Chollar, Tristan Reece, Arabella Reece, Lynn Varner and Taylor Shimono). PHOTO COURTESY OF LORI CHOLLAR



Rita Sleeman, who has volunteered with Odyssey of the Mind for the past 30 years, was awarded with the Spirit Award for embodying the spirit of the competitions.

The spirit of Sleeman

International Problem Captain Rita Sleeman presented with Odyssey of the Mind Spirit Award

Though she has held many positions with Odyssey of the Mind over the years, Rita Sleeman will always be remembered as a "selfless spirit."

Sleeman, who is stepping down as the International Problem Captain for Problem 3 Classics after 27 years in the position, will be awarded the Odyssey of the Mind Spirit Award for her work over the last 30 years with OotM.

"I'm very overwhelmed and honored to have received this prestigious award," Sleeman said.

The Odyssey of the Mind Spirit Award is given to an individual who demonstrates the encouragement and development of cooperation, self-respect and the appreciation and understanding of others, according to OotM. Sleeman has assisted in problem development, clarifications, created training materials and directed problem sets. She has also served as a board member, regional Director at the Michigan state-level and participated as a coach for her daughter, Christine.

Matt Lopez, Sleeman's successor and the new International Problem Captain for Problem 3 Classics, is a 22-year veteran of OotM and said working with Sleeman has been "wonderful."

"She was very helpful in the [transitioning]

process: proofreading stuff I had to come up with, checking over what I did, reminding me what I had to do," Lopez said of Sleeman. "She cares about the officials and the kids. ... People can't say enough good things about her."

"At the end of the day, we are here to make sure kids have a good time at the finals," Lopez added. "She will definitely be missed. I have big shoes to fill coming in and taking over as the IPC."

Sleeman received her Master's Degree from Michigan State University in Gifted, Talented, and Creative Education and has been recognized as someone who dedicated many hours to volunteering. When she first heard about OotM in 1981, she organized the first practice tournament and assisted with Problem 2 in the second-ever Michigan State finals.

She has also journeyed to many OotM competitions from her hometown of Traverse City, Michigan. Sleeman said she values most the relationships she has made through OotM and the chances she has had to meet all of the teams, coaches and kids.

"Just the energy and enthusiasm and creativity of everyone individually in Odyssey - It's just something that continues year after year," Sleeman said. "I hope that I have left some lasting impression on the program and encouraged a lot of people."

OPENING

from page 1

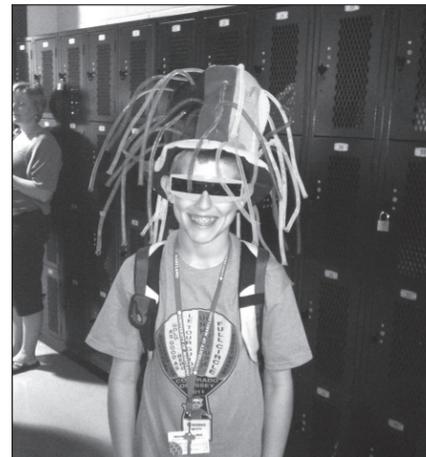
from Shanghai, China, had a few words of wisdom to offer to the team members.

"You are the future of your respective countries," he said to a crowd of multicolored shirts and blinking sunglasses. "The amount of energy in the arena and the amount of talent that has gathered from around the world is inspiring."

Dr. Paul Heinz, a representative from NASA — which sponsors problem 2 — was the event's keynote speaker. Using sticky notes to show his true creativity, he involved the crowd in an impromptu spontaneous challenge.

With the real competitions beginning tomorrow, Heinz stressed the number one importance of making it to World Finals.

"But, mainly we're all here to have," Heinz prompted the crowd to respond, as everyone shouted back, "fun!"



Parker Donaldson, 12, of Colorado, arrives at Opening Ceremonies Friday night in style.

The event ended with remarks from Dr. Sam Micklus, the founder of Odyssey of the Mind, who offered his gratitude to all the attendees for traveling to World Finals.

"You are the best in the world ... I'm proud of everyone in here," he said.



A team from Poland prepares to march into Comcast Center at Opening Ceremonies last night.

Wigan returns to World Finals!

Willard Wigan, last year's Creativity Award winner, will be appearing again with his incredible micro sculptures in the Stamp Student Union from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. He will also be showing his work on Sunday and Monday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m in Stamp's Union Gallery. You won't want to miss this!

NEWSEUM

from page 1

passersby to step inside.

At the ceremony, McCormack urged OotM participants to recognize the value and importance of the First Amendment freedoms that allow them to use their creativity to its fullest.

"Believe it or not, people across the world are still being jailed for expressing themselves or for having a different belief," she said.

The museum also offers classes with a focus on creative thought, she said. There

are options from the third-grade level all the way up to the university level, and students can choose from topics like photo ethics or the relationship between the civil rights movement and the first amendment.

As the director of education, McCormack is in charge of learning opportunities at the museum.

"It's the best job at the Newseum, if I do say so myself," she said, urging the crowd members to check out the wonders of the museum themselves. "I hope you all get the chance to visit the Newseum while you are in town."

Check out the coupon to the Newseum below — just for World Finalists!

College Park: Come see all we have to offer!

Looking for a night out on the town? Besides being only several miles from Washington D.C., College Park has plenty to offer for a fun-filled time that is just a short way from the residence hall you are staying in.

Waterparks: If you are looking for something a little wilder try Lane Manor Splash Park at 7601 West Park Drive in Hyattsville. About a mile from campus, Splash Park offers a 25-meter pool, two slides, as well as lily pads, a snake and an alligator to play on. Call 301.422.7284 for more information.

Parks: If pools are not your style, Lake Artemesia is also a mile away at Berwyn Rd and 55th Ave in Berwyn Heights. The 38-acre lake has walking and biking trails for the explorers in the crowd. There is also catch and release fishing. Call 301.927.2163 for more information.

Museums: College Park is home to the world's oldest continually operating airport. Founded in 1909, the airport has a museum and small park to play in. The museum is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and the building is only three blocks from the Metro station. Call 301.864.6029 for more information.

Dining: Route One has a bunch of restaurants to fill that belly. The intersection of Knox and Route One there is the famous Ledo's pizza renowned for their thin square pizza. There is also Ratsie's Pizza, a student favorite known for its large slices of pizza, open late for the night. For those with a sweet tooth try Yogiberri, a posh frozen yogurt shop next to Ratsie's.

Bring this coupon to the Newseum and receive

\$10 Adult and Youth Admission
May 28-31, 2011



Discount valid May 28-31, 2011. Coupon must be presented to redeem this offer. Cannot be combined with other discounts.

NEWSEUM | 555 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
newseum.org | 888/NEWSEUM

SAY CHEESE

You and your team can be professionally photographed by Premier Portraits at four on-campus sites. This is a great way to preserve your World Finals memories for years to come. Be sure to check out the following locations at the designated times!

The Stamp Union

Saturday — 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Sunday — 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Monday — 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Cole Field House

Saturday — 7 to 9 p.m. (During the Float and Banner Parade)
Sunday — 7 to 9 p.m. (During graduation)

Reckord Armory — During the Creativity Festival

Saturday — 12 to 5 p.m.
Sunday — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday — 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Comcast Center — During Closing Ceremonies

Monday — 7 to 9:30 p.m.

MAKE A SPLASH

Don't forget that you can swim at Eppley Recreation Center's outdoor pool for free during the following hours:

Saturday and Sunday — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 9 to 11 p.m.*

Monday — 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*9 p.m. to 11 is reserved for Divisions 3 and 4



Tweet with us!

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Take any good photos? Have a favorite memory or special story about World Finals you want to tell?

Share them with us at OMERnewsUMD@gmail.com!

Schedule of Sunday's events

Sunday, May 29

8 a.m. — 7 p.m. | World Finals competitions | Across the campus

9 a.m. — 5 p.m. | Creativity Festival | Reckord Armory

9 a.m., 11, 1 p.m., 2:30 | NASA E-theatre presentations | Hoff Theater

9 a.m., 10:15, 11:30, 1:30 p.m., and 2:45 | NASA classroom activities | Stamp Student Union

7 p.m. — 8 | Graduation and coaches competition | Cole Field House

Looking to trade pins?

Visit The Baltimore Room in the Stamp Student Union — the go-to spot for all World Finals pin trading!

We hope to see you there!



One team from Florida relaxes in the South Campus Dining Hall during dinner on Thursday after a day of traveling from the sunshine state.

SPOTLIGHT OF THE DAY

What are you most excited for going into World Finals?



“ I'm most excited for pin trading — Bettina Bueno, 13, Connecticut



“ I'm most excited for Opening Ceremonies and parties — Athena Giannopoulos, 14, Connecticut



“ I'm most excited for winning the competition — Zane Ayers, 9, Arizona



“ I'm most excited about meeting new people — Ryan Cassin, 14, Connecticut