

**ODYSSEY GRADUATION CEREMONY
ACKNOWLEDGES STUDENTS' SACRIFICES**

BY TIM PADOT



Many Odyssey of the Mind graduates are spending this weekend participating at the World Finals, instead of walking across a stage to receive their diplomas with their classmates. But OotM officials did the best they could to ease the situation by hosting an Odyssey graduation ceremony, complete with caps, gowns and diplomas.

Rebecca Nolan, an Odyssey parent from Northern Kentucky, was a little unsure at first, but was a convert by the end.

"It made me feel great because this is a great program and they took the initiative to give the seniors their own graduation, where they missed their other one at home, my son's was actually tonight. But, it was really great. As a parent, it made me feel wonderful, proud."

The thought of missing celebrations at home with lifelong friends was certainly on the minds of some at the Odyssey graduation, but friends are never too far away with OotM.

"Mixed feelings, definitely bittersweet, I miss my friends at home, but it's a very unique experience, lots of new people, but a very close-knit family," said Senior Maria Rojas. "Plus, I have a lot of my friends who are in Odyssey who probably wouldn't have been able to make it to my graduation, and they're very good friends of mine, so I'm very happy to have been here."

One of those Odyssey friends is Benton Smith, also a Senior, who said he met Maria this year and over a few months have become, "just great, great friends".

"This one here is also very special, it's

something not everyone gets to do, it's at the World Finals for Odyssey, I get Dr. Sam to congratulate me and take a picture with me, it's a closer knit group of friends, everyone is friendly here, and it's just an awesome environment to graduate in...I wouldn't have wanted to graduate with anyone else then some of the people here."

Students of all ages missing graduations at home to be at the World Finals were invited to participate in the Odyssey graduation ceremony.

IN THIS ISSUE

Graduation.....1
 Important Phone Numbers.....1
 Coaches' Competition.....1
 Team Photography1
 Social Media.....1
 Judge at Home at World Finals ..2
 Dining Hall Hours.....2
 After Parties.....2
 Lansing Trivia.....2
 Shuttle Schedule2
 Souvenir Stations2
 Creativity Festival2
 Check-Out Reminder2
 Team Strength Shines3
 Weather Forecast3
 Awards Ceremony Tickets3
 Michigan Flyer Departure Info3
 Graduation Ceremonies3
 Plan your free time!3
 Spirit Award Winner.....4
 Cancellation Stamps4
 Health Services4
 Special Offer.....4
 Event Schedule4
 Omer's World News Staff4

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency ONLY

Fire, Police, Ambulance

911

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) 355-2222

Props/Storage Information at

Logistics Central Receiving

(517) 884-6082

World Finals Information Desk

(517) 884-7469

or (517) 884-7470

COACHES' COMPETITION

Odyssey coaches and officials finally had their chance to express their creative ideas last night at the Coaches' Competition. The Breslin Event Center was full of wacky costumes, fun ideas, and excited coaches and teams. The problem was to build a costume for one person that would grow to include as many people as possible. Some coach costumes grew big enough to hold huge groups of team members and fellow coaches. Here are the finalists:

Lori Parisee, Iowa

for her apple tree costume

Kirsten Choy, California

for her Octopus costume

Jen Schwartz, Utah

for her caterpillar butterfly costume

Style winner: Travis Schroeder,

Wisconsin for his Mime costume

TEAM PHOTOGRAPHY

Premier Portraits will be available for team photos during the Creativity Festival and at the Breslin Center. Costumes and props are strongly encouraged.

Breslin Center

Saturday - 9:30 am - 9:30 pm

Creativity Festival

Saturday - 9am - 12pm

SOCIAL MEDIA

We would love to hear what you are doing at World Finals! Follow us on Twitter:

twitter.com/OdysseyHQ

Add your pictures and share your World Finals experience with others! Please visit and join our Flickr Group:

www.flickr.com/groups/odysseyhq

ODYSSEY JUDGE AT HOME AT WORLD FINALS

BY BRENDAN DWYER

When Dr. Don DeYoung was asked to be a judge at the 2013 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals, it simply couldn't have been a more natural fit. Serving as a judge for Problem #1 Pet Project, Dr. DeYoung has important personal and professional connections both here in East Lansing and in another Odyssey World Finals host city. It just so happens that DeYoung received his education in Veterinary Medicine here at Michigan State University and after years in the Army and in private practice, became a professor at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. With one World Finals host site as DeYoung's Alma Mater and another as a University where he taught for many years, Odyssey of the Mind helped bring both of these significant institutions of learning back into his life. "I have many fond memories of MSU, so when I was asked to judge World Finals, the East Lansing site helped make my decision. I suddenly had an opportunity to come full circle," said DeYoung. "I've judged a lot of science fairs, but the OotM creativity and personal element make these competitions like nothing else I've ever seen." As his first World Finals judging experience, DeYoung is not just impressed with the Odyssey program, but its international competitors as well. "The young people competing here this week are

incredibly bright and all of the submissions have been excellent." That's saying a lot, given DeYoung will judge over 60 teams in Division 2 over the next few days. Because of his affinity for the sites that host World Finals events, and his newfound love for the Odyssey program and its thousands of international participants, DeYoung plans to be a part of these events for many years to come. "I started as a fan of MSU and ISU, but now I'm also a big fan of OotM," said DeYoung. "The level of positivity and motivation to succeed that these young competitors exude is truly infectious. As long as they'll have me, I'll continue to judge for as long as I am able."

DINING HALL HOURS

Saturday

Breakfast:	6:00 am - 9:00 am
Lunch:	11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Dinner:	4:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Sunday

To Go Breakfast:	5:00 am - 7:00 am
Sparty's Store:	open at 6:00 am (Hubbard, Brody & Case Halls)
Dine In Breakfast:	7:00 am - 9:00 am

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 two bus routes running on the Michigan State University's campus for participants during World Finals. Please look for the bus hosts to assist you in finding your way around campus.

Saturday, May 25th

Odyssey Bus Route: begins at 5:00 am and runs until 12:30 am

Orange Route (Parking only): begins at 5:00 am and runs until 12:30 am

Sunday, May 26th

Orange Route (Parking only): begins at 3:00 am and runs until 1:00 pm

SOUVENIR STATIONS

SOUVENIR SALES WILL BE OPEN AT THESE TIMES AND LOCATIONS:

International Center Library

Saturday, May 25th: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Jenison Fieldhouse

Creativity Festival

Saturday, May 25th: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

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 southwest end of Munn Field on the MSU Campus, allows kids to enjoy carnival games, inflatable obstacle courses, a photo booth, live music, food and beverage and a special appearance from MSU's very own mascot Sparty!

The teen (GREEN) after party, hosted at southeast end of Munn Field on the MSU Campus, provides an opportunity for teens to enjoy inflatable obstacle courses, games, a photo booth, live music, food and beverage and a special appearance from MSU's very own mascot Sparty! The Officials' after party, hosted the by Kellogg Hotel and Conference

Center, offers live music, hors d' oeuvres and desserts to WF volunteers.

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

Preteen Party

9:30 pm - 12:30 am

Munn Field - white

Teen Party

9:30 pm - 12:30 am

Munn Field - green

Coaches Recovery Party

9:30 pm - 1 am

Kellogg Center

CREATIVITY FESTIVAL

Everyone is welcome for this free and interactive event! You can win prizes and participate in activities from other associations, have fun with hands on arts and crafts like decorating an OMER mask (turn in the ticket enclosed in your registration packet at the Creativity Festival and get a FREE OMER mask to decorate and get stamped at each booth), interact with team booths from all over and visit OMER's Pin collection. Please stop by the Odyssey Angels booth to learn more about the program. Also, visit this year's winning group Blue Valley Education and make a blanket for foster kids. Always a great place to trade pins, have some fun and meet new friends!

Plan to visit the Jenison Fieldhouse for the Creativity Festival:

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

LANSING TRIVIA!

1. _____ of Lansing, for whom the Oldsmobile was named, was a machinist who built his first vehicle—a three-wheeled, steam-powered carriage—in 1886 at age 22.

2. The 1849 Michigan State Fair was the first state fair held in the United States. It once was held at various sites, but has been in Detroit since 1905. Before that, it was held in Lansing. Where? What happened to the property?

3. What type of tree on the state Capitol grounds in Lansing was grown from a seed carried to the moon by Apollo 14 astronauts?

4. Michigan's Department of Transportation was the first in the nation to divide its highways with what???

5. Born in 1959, and from Lansing, this athlete was drafted by the Los Angeles Lakers in 1979 while a student at Michigan State University. He became one of basketball's greatest guards.

6. Born in 1950, a Grammy Award winner, this musician was born in Saginaw, Michigan, and grew up in Detroit. Blind since infancy, he attended Lansing's School for the Blind and recorded his first song at age 13. His pop hits include "Ebony and Ivory" and "I Just Called to Say I Love You."

CHECK-OUT REMINDER FROM HOUSING

We hope you are enjoying your stay at MSU! When ready to depart, place your access card and room key back in the envelope in which it was given, and give it to your Team Leader. The Team Leader will put all of the access 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 linens. Safe travels!

WEATHER FORECAST



Saturday | High of 64
Mostly Sunny



Sunday | High of 68
Mostly Sunny

AWARDS CEREMONY TICKET INFORMATION

Teams, coaches, and guests staying on campus 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 tonight's Awards Ceremony between 8 am - 5 pm. All seats are reserved. Any tickets still available after 6 pm can be obtained at the Breslin Center Ticket Office. Concessions will be open during the event.

MICHIGAN FLYER DEPARTURE INFO

For those of you who have not yet contacted the Michigan Flyer office regarding your pick up location, based on your dorm assignment, please see the list below and email to reservations@michiganflyer.com with your order number or name and the stop number. Please be ready to board at your particular stop number at least ten minutes before the designated departure time you have chosen on your reservation.

Stop-#1 - East Akers Hall (includes Holmes, Hubbard and East and West Akers)- the shuttle will load on the Shaw Lane in front of the entrance to East Akers Hall.

Stop-#2 - East Wilson Hall (includes West Wilson, Case, Holden and Wonders)- the shuttle will load on Chestnut Street in front of the entrance to East Wilson Hall.

Stop-#3 - CATA Transit Center (includes Shaw Hall)- the shuttle will load at the CATA Transit Center across the street from Shaw Hall.

Stop-#4 - Brody Hall-CATA stop (includes Brody, Bailey, Rather and Butterfield)- the shuttle will pick up on the west side of Harrison Road directly across the street from the Kellogg Center.

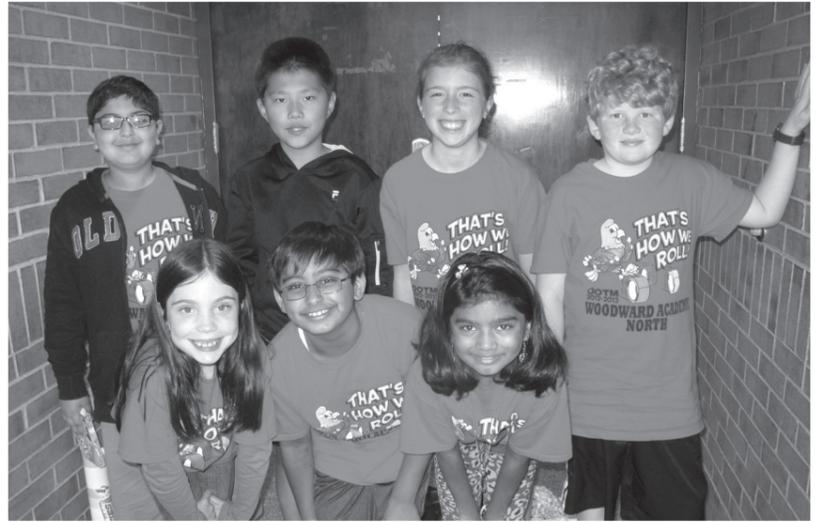
A representative from the Michigan Flyer will take your name and/or order number at the shuttle before boarding. We hope you have enjoyed your time in East Lansing and we look forward to welcoming you back in the near future. Thank you for riding with Michigan Flyer.

Michigan Flyer - 517-333-0400

TEAM STRENGTH SHINES AT SPONTANEOUS COMPETITION

BY BRENDAN DWYER

It's hard enough to perform under pressure when you have mastered your presentation material. How about tackling a surprise problem with just a few minutes, your wits and your Odyssey of the Mind teammates as your only resources? That is just the challenge facing teams this week as they take on the Spontaneous Competition. An anxious team from Woodward North Academy in John's Creek, Georgia, awaiting their competition time in the corridor of



Teammates from Woodward North Academy in John's Creek, Georgia know the Spontaneous Competition is a tough challenge that will test their teamwork skills.

Wells Hall was nervous and excited, but well-informed on the task at hand. They explained that a team can do well on their long-term problem, but if they perform poorly on spontaneous, it can drastically affect the overall score. Team coach Michelle Rosenthal shared that no matter the outcome her team is better for the experience. "OotM teaches a lot, but one main thing is effective follow-through," said Rosenthal. "With all the growth I've seen in these kids over the last six months, no matter their final score

they've already won." Another group from Fremont California literally minutes before their spontaneous competition, stopped and shared their unique insight and secret to success both for their performance in Problem #2 The Email Must Go Through and the spontaneous competition, mere moments away. "In spontaneous you don't know the specifics of the problem, so you have to count on the strength of your team," said Shadha, a bright and enthusiastic 5th grader. "We're pretty calm because of the



These girls came all the way from Fremont, California to show their creativity in the Spontaneous Competition.

confidence we have in our team. Hard problems become easy when you work together and for us, good teamwork is our strong-suit." Understanding the importance of teamwork at this young age is just one skill attained through participation in OotM and clearly the Spontaneous Problem Competition at these World Finals has become a proving-ground for first-rate teamwork.

PLAN YOUR FREE TIME!

The Greater Lansing Convention and Visitor's Bureau is excited that Odyssey is back in town for World Finals! We have a lot of information available around campus to give some ideas about what to do in your free time after your competitions. Please plan to stop by one of the information booths to get a visitor guide, learn more about our FREE mobile app available at m.lansing.org, and for suggestions about what to do to explore Greater Lansing!

Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center

Saturday, May 25th: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Visitor Center in East Lansing

a free pin is available for participants

Saturday, May 25th: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Sunday, May 26th: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Team members and adults with residence hall or Odyssey-provided wristbands are able to participate in recreational activities at MSU's IM East building (basketball, racquetball, volleyball). Towels are not provided.

IM East times are as follows:

Saturday, May 25th: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

IM West outdoor pool will be available to

Odyssey participants as follows:

Saturday, May 25th: 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

Participants must be accompanied by an adult chaperone when using recreational facilities. Recreational equipment checkout available to Odyssey of the Mind participants from IM East equipment desk. Athletic shoes are required for recreational activity area (gym floor).

SPIRIT AWARD WINNER LIFTS THE SPIRITS OF GRADUATION AUDIENCE

BY TIM PADOT

Since its inception, Odyssey has been shaped and molded by the contributions of Jackie Otte, this year's Spirit Award recipient.

When asked what this award meant to her, verbally choked up, she confessed, "It's stunning. It takes my breath away, really. It's truly a very special award from a very special program. Odyssey has been a major part of my life for many, many years."

For more than 30 years, Jackie has served in just about every capacity that exists within the Odyssey support structure - in her home state, nationally and internationally. Jackie introduced OotM into her school district in 1980. She immediately began coaching and, during her first two years, led two teams to World Finals.

"I only hope that, over the years, I've been able to help students realize their own potential, skills and abilities, and broaden their horizons, just as they have broadened mine."

During her acceptance speech, Jackie quoted an article printed a few years ago in her hometown newspaper in Schenectady, NY - which, ironically, originated from Michigan State University. Titled, "What Are They Looking For?", the article revealed the skill sets employers were seeking in candidates.

One by one - communication, computer/technology, leadership, teamwork, interpersonal skills and strong personal traits - Jackie equated how each of these core skill sets directly related to the experiences and techniques students were actively honing through their participation in OotM.

"They're preparing themselves for future success in life, how to relate well to others, and inspire others to participate, be motivated, and conquer challenges," she explained. "They're learning to identify challenges within problems and identify possible solutions. And, especially at World Finals, the opportunity exists for global competitiveness and understanding different cultures."

While retiring from other duties, Jackie will continue to lead the Shadow Program, which helps connect future leaders with valuable resources and relationships.

Of what she hoped students would take away from her address, she said, "Like we always say at Odyssey, if it doesn't say you can't, you can. Test yourself, learn from your successes, but more importantly, learn from your failures as well."

EVENT SCHEDULE

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

- 8 am - 4 pmWorld Finals Competition
- noon - 4 pmInternational Festival
Jenison Fieldhouse
- 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm . . Awards Ceremony
Breslin Event Center
- 9:30 pm - 12:30 amPreteen Party
Munn Field - white
- 9:30 pm - 12:30 am Teen Party
Munn Field - green
- 9:30 pm - 1 am Coaches Recovery Party
Kellogg Center

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 6 am - noonHousing Check-out

OotM COMPUTER ACCESS

There is one computer lab in each neighborhood that is available for Odyssey use. The login and password are both "visitor". There is no print access. Computer labs are available with 24/7 access to Odyssey of the Mind guests at the following locations:

- Akers - 141**
- Brody - 143**
- Case - 337**

Wireless is available to the Odyssey participants and guests, however, access will vary based on where you are on campus. Please visit <http://techbase.msu.edu/article.asp?id=4254> for all instructions on how to connect to the campus guest network. Wi-Fi is available when you see the MSU net Guest ID showing as a wireless option in your area.

CANCELLATION STAMPS

AVAILABLE AT THE MSU UNION POST OFFICE

Get Odyssey of the Mind World Finals cancellation stamps at the MSU Union Post Office, located on the main floor at the welcome center. The Odyssey of the Mind post office station will cancel any postcard or envelope with first class postage attached at the MSU Union location only. The post office will supply stamps and envelopes onsite for purchase.

Post Office Hours are:
Monday - Friday: 8 am - 5:30 pm
Saturday: 9 am - 12 pm

HEALTH SERVICES

E.W. Sparrow Hospital

Medical care is also available through the emergency department of Sparrow Hospital located at
1215 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing.

Phone: (517) 364-1000

Sparrow Urgent Care Center

Okemos Center
2248 Mt. Hope, Suite 106
(at Okemos Rd.)

Phone: (517) 381-4001

Hours: Everyday, 10am - 10pm

TRIVIA ANSWERS:

1. Ransom E. Olds
2. Where the Grand River Assembly Plant and Lansing Car Assembly stood. The city granted the property to RE Olds to woo him back to Lansing after he moved his company to Detroit.
3. Sycamore
4. Painted centerlines.
5. Earvin ("Magic") Johnson, Jr
6. Stevie Wonder



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Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau
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