



# Odyssey of the Mind

# Newsletter

VOLUME 13,

NUMBER 4,


SUMMER 1991

## The 12th World Finals — The Biggest and the Best Yet

**T**he 1991 Odyssey of the Mind World Finals welcomed a record number of participants. There were 648 teams competing from the U.S., Canada, China, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Mexico, Poland, the Soviet Union and D.O.D.S. Atlantic Region (flying in teams from Belgium and the Netherlands) in what has become the world's largest international academic competition. The event was held on May 22-25, 1991 on the University of Tennessee Campus at Knoxville.

During his keynote speech at the opening ceremony, Dr. Micklus reminded us, "Winners are those of you who try your best." At that initial gathering, a trio that featured singers/songwriters Gwendolyn Warnock and Samantha Schelman, and former OM teammate Kathy Youngberg led the group in the OM song. Later that day, the Golden Knights, a U.S. Army Parachute Team, greeted OMers with a grand entrance at the picnic. These aerial artists performed one of their most famous maneuvers, the baton pass. This involved passing a 14-inch wooden baton while the jumpers were in "freefall". Once on the ground, the baton was presented to Dr. Micklus. Each parachutist also carried the flag of a country. There were 9 different flags, each representing one of the countries competing in OM's World Finals.

The days that followed were filled with fun, friends, pin trading and creative problem solving. Omer was on hand for hugs and sends thanks to the 255 volunteers who helped officiate this incredible event.


On Saturday evening, an estimated crowd of 15,000 attended the awards' ceremony. This assembly honored those teams that demonstrated the most creative solutions to the problems. 



## Founder of Children's Museum Wins Odyssey of the Mind Creativity Award

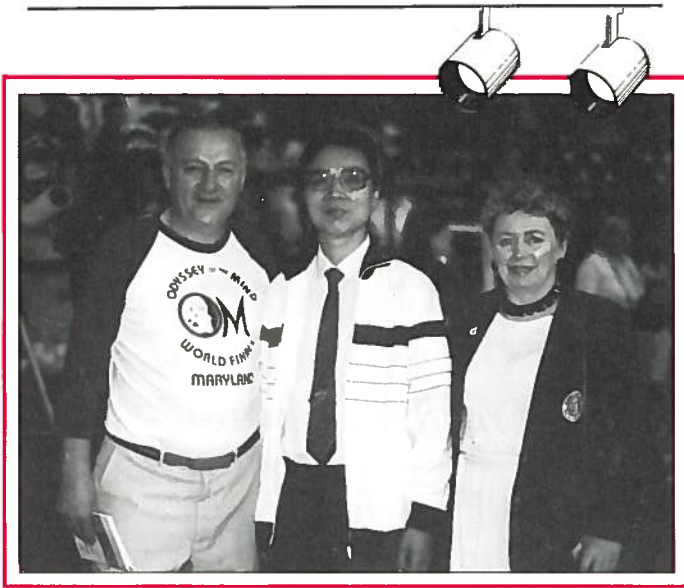


**A**nn Lewin was the recipient of this year's Odyssey of the Mind Creativity Award. A believer that *hands-on education* is the best way to stimulate and motivate a child's mind, Ann created the Capital Children's Museum. This museum celebrates the curiosity of children. Located in Washington, D.C., the museum does not feature exhibits behind glass. Here, children can touch, create, experiment, and learn about other cultures on the museum's three-acre campus near the Capitol Building.

All of the museum's activities are designed to challenge, educate and fascinate children of all ages. There are permanent as well as special exhibits, demonstrations and workshops that make learning an adventure. Over 300,000 kids visit each year. There is also an educational center for adults. OM is proud to salute Ann Lewin, who enables kids to say, "I'm really ok. Look what I can do." 



# SPOTLIGHT



This year's World Finals found teams from 9 different countries traveling to Knoxville, Tennessee. Among those competing were two teams from China. One team from Sichuan Province registered to compete in Give and Go, Division I; the other, from Shanghai, challenged teams in Give and Go, Division II.

Both Chinese teams traveled to Tennessee with the support of Mr. Chen Wei-Xin, Vice Editor-in-Chief of the Juvenile Press Agency. Mr. Chen, featured in this month's OM Spotlight, is the OM Director for the China OM Association.

The China OM Association began in Shanghai in 1988. It became a chartered association one year later. Mr. Chen Wei-Xin's first experience with OM was in 1988 when he coached a Chinese OM team. That year, he brought the first team from the People's Republic of China to College Park, Maryland to compete in the 9th OM World Finals. Although the team did not return with any trophies, Mr. Chen received 2nd prize in the Coaches' Competition.

When OM first began in China, there were 40 participants. Today, through Mr. Chen's leadership, China boasts a total of 197 memberships. With such increases, this year China OM received a special award from the International headquarters. In 1990-91, this association received a new members award for the association with the largest membership growth.

The purpose of China OM, in part, is to cultivate creativity in students; to develop fluency, flexibility, originality and elaboration in thinking; and to promote understanding between the Chinese students and students in the rest of the world.

OM competitions in Shanghai China draw students from the provinces of Gangshou, Chongqin and Jiangshu. Thousands of Chinese students have learned about OM through the efforts of Mr. Chen and the Juvenile Press, its affiliated organization.

To publicize the program in China, Mr. Chen, who authored 11 books, wrote one about OM for Chinese children. We thank Mr. Chen for his efforts in spreading the OM word and look forward to seeing Chinese teams at the OM World Finals in the future.



## World Finals' Roundup

- \* Eve Fingard, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania celebrated her 81st birthday in Knoxville Tennessee—OM style. This sharp-witted and spirited lady checked the math on all the spontaneous scores *before* they went to the OM scorerroom. Were there any errors? Scorerroom officials report that Eve made their job a breeze! Thanks Eve, we hope you'll come back to help us out next year in Colorado.
- \* Eastdale Elementary School, West Virginia, came out on top in the state finals. Five teams from this school took first place and competed in Give and Go, Divisions I & II; Pompeii, Division I; Super Collider, Division I; and Transformation, Division I at World Finals. Since some team members participated in more than one problem, it is to their credit that Amy Berry, Connor Boram, Nicholas Rotunda, Matthew West and Jonathan Wright are flexible and adaptable to change. During World Finals, after their first long-term performance and spontaneous problem, they each had to quickly prepare for another role and compete with another team in a separate problem.
- \* South Dakota brought a first-time state winner to World Finals to compete in Buggy Lite, Division II. Throughout the year this team received coaching support from a couple who have no children of their own. Obvious promoters of youth, George and Donna Melber approached a school in their hometown with the idea of coaching an OM team. Under their direction, the team from Miller, South Dakota won the state competition in Buggy Lite, Division II. This was the first year that a team from Miller even entered an OM competition. The Melbers report that they had excellent support from the community. One resident handed Donna \$300 for the teams' WF travel expenses while she was shopping downtown.
- \* Judy Simons, a parent coach, tells us how proud she is of Westside Community Schools in Omaha, Nebraska. This district sent four teams to Tennessee this year and has had at least one representative at World Finals for the last four years. Each year, team members return from the annual competition with renewed enthusiasm, new friends, and lots of new pins! The teams' participation in World Finals is just one reason Judy feels so good about the Omaha program. She writes to remind us, "Success is not determined solely by how well you finish, but for what you have accomplished as an OMer." She sends this poem to illustrate her point:

Winners vs. Losers  
—author unknown

The Winner is always part of the answer,  
The Loser is always part of the problem.

The Winner always has a program,

The Loser always has an excuse.

The Winner says, "Let's do it!"

The Loser says, "It's not my job."

The Winner sees an answer for every problem,

The Loser sees a problem for every answer.

The Winner says, "It may be difficult—but it's possible."

The loser says, "It may be possible, but it's too difficult."

Be a Winner.

# 1991 World Finals Ranatra Fusca Winners

The following world finals teams won Ranatra Fusca awards. The judges' reasons for the awards follow:

## Buggy Lite:

### Division III

*Long-term:* **Hampshire High School, Augusta, West Virginia.** Coach: Charlie Streisel; Team: Mike Anderson, Janet Blubaugh, Chris Cunningham, Jamie Ganoë, John Hisghman, Sierra Ludwick and Ernie Torres.

*The team demonstrated exceptional creativity with the design and execution of the vehicle's control system—a single, joystick responsible for steering, speed and direction.*

## Give and Go:

### Division I

*Long-term:* **South Londonderry School, Londonderry, New Hampshire.** Coach: Peggy Ghiloni; Team: Stephanie Bradberry, Drew Carlson, Kenneth Ghiloni, Doug Hughes, Tracy Murphy, Liz Oswald and Jenn Sims.

*This team was the only team to create an interactive device and target that were dependent on one another.*

### Division II

*Spontaneous:* **Hagerstown Jr/Sr High School, Hagerstown, Indiana.** Coach: Jorgena Watson; Team: Jacob Bell, Jason Burdette, Matt Doerstler, Richard Federico, Jamie Johnson, Brent Smith and Emily Williamson.

*The creative ideas and thoughts that went into the formulation of a final, successful solution were wonderfully creative. It was a joy to watch this unique and very different team strategy at work.*

*Long-term:* **Junior High TAG Program II, Eureka, Missouri.** Coach: Debbie Fluchel; Team: Jenny Blackfield, Sarun Charumilind, Doug Fluchel, Tom Mueller, Matt Ryan and Cathy Wild.

*The team's tennis ball delivery system featured a conveyer belt that was made out of cloth and a rain gutter. Because it was a complex system, significant risk was involved.*

### Division III

*Long-term:* **Andrew Hill High School, San Jose, California.** Coach: Sandra Watson; Individual team member: Gino Do.

*This artistically executed 20-foot dragon delivered its cargo through a horizontal arc rather than a straight line.*

*Spontaneous:* **Andrew Hill High School, San Jose, California.** Coach: Sandra Watson; Team: Gino Do, Jennifer Espinosa, Todd Espinosa, Koing Kuoch, Christa Martinez, Hung Pham and Minh Thai.

*This team was almost telepathic in its ability to communicate. Its approach toward the solution, while very daring and risky, had such a creative twist that it left us stunned.*

## Pompeii:

### Division I

*Long-term:* **Central Elementary School Team B, Lawrenceburg, Indiana.** Coach: Gary Tyler & Denise Kaffenberger; Team: Kendra Conover, Adam Gilliam, Shaun Holliday, Stacey Kaffenberger, Jerad LeBretton, Craig Pennington and Shawn Wilkening.

*This team was cited for its remarkable volcanic eruption and the metamorphosis of character development from inanimate objects to animated characters.*

### Division III

*Spontaneous:* **Highland Park High School, Dallas, Texas.** Coach: Susan McCormick; Team: Chris Campbell, Billy Crain, McKay Cunningham, Dylan Jones, Deborah Long and Stephanie March.

*The team's use of puns, homophones and humor to express its solutions was creative and wonderfully refreshing.*

### Division IV

*Spontaneous:* **State University at Genesco, Genesco, New York.** Coach: Conni Brott; Team members: Luann Boulio, Alan Brott, Conni Brott, Juliet Lauber, Mike Sisson and Laura Venable.

*This team was creative in its use of the linkages of "cat" to words not associated with a feline. The team worked well with one another and each member contributed.*

## Super Collider:

### Division I

*Long-term:* **Oakdale Elementary School, Omaha, Nebraska.** Coach: Ronald Grummert; Team: Charlie Carlin, Brian Grummert, Mike Tayter, David Verdirame and Dan Wells.

*The team constructed a three-dimensional cityscape that included the demolition of a school building. The process involved an intricate mechanism which utilized mechanical, chemical, and electrical functions. The creative interaction of these functions produced a dramatic visual effect to the finale of the team's skit. In addition, the team had to improvise shortly before the competition due to environmental conditions.*

### Division II

*Spontaneous:* **Tubbs Elementary School, Lubbock, Texas.** Coach: Barbara Curbo; Team members: Sara Burke, Chantel Curbo, Adam Gallardo, Cardelia Howell, Anson Thompson and Tim Williamson.

*The team demonstrated an outstanding ability to generate highly creative answers covering a broad range of knowledge. They used current events in very humorous answers that indicated a high level of thinking.*

*Long-term:* **Keystone Oaks Eagles Program C, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.** Coach: Fanny McAleer; Team: Erica Chaner, Geoffrey Dobson, Glenn Ianaro, Jim Killeen, Tony Masztak, George Papuga and Ben Solecki.

*Awarded for the triangular design of the structure.*

*(continued on next page)*

## 1991 World Finals Ranatra Fusca Winners (cont'd)

### Super Collider: (cont'd)

#### Division III

*Spontaneous: George Washington High School Team B, Denver Colorado.* Coach: BJ Scott; Team: Erin Cierpial, Tom Potter, Dominique Reneau, Binh Vo, Dien Vo and Brenda Wilson.

*This team demonstrated the best of what OM is all about. In responding to the verbal problem, the team gave a myriad of responses that were generally clear, original, witty and humorous.*

*Long-term: Wando High School, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina* Coach: Christopher Holley; Individual team member: Thomas Cobb.

*Thomas Cobb showed great creativity and risk-taking by using the theme of one man's internal hell. This was enhanced by the visual impact of the huge mural that he designed and executed as well as his theatrical ability.*

### Transformation:

#### Division I

*Spontaneous: Blue Valley Enrichment Program A, Overland Park, Kansas.* Coach: Teila Gilcrest; Team: Michael Bunn, Michael Carter, Jason Lucas, Miora Pyle, Kim Nicholas, Sarah Ream and Wei An Yu.

*This team used the given props in a unique and creative manner. Over half of their answers were puns on words or props. The divergent answers were integrated into a flowing, sensible sequence.*

*Long-term: Hopi School Team A, Scottsdale, Arizona.* Coach: Judy Steenblik & Suzy Van Sickle; Team: Ali Gibney, Katie Marrie, Rachel Ponce, Jeremy Steenblik, Meredith Thomson and Matt Van Sickle.

*The team creatively transformed abstract ideas into a concrete representation through the blending of multiple non-verbal expressions.*

#### Division II:

*Long-term: Shaffer Elementary School, Team A, Littleton Colorado.* Coach: Sheila Swanson; Team: Annie Fabik, Casey Feinstein, Jeff Hutcheson, Jenni Kelly, Jennifer Larson, Justin Stitt and Ian Swanson.

*This team was cited for its creative costumes and outstanding creativity and performance, both visual and verbal, throughout the Transformation problem.*

***"Imagination is more important than knowledge, for knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world . . ."***

***—Albert Einstein***

## Pomp and Circumstance

On May 24, 1991, Odyssey of the Mind held a special graduation ceremony at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. This event recognized all those students who, because of attending OM World Finals, missed a graduation ceremony in their own home town.

The "OM" graduating class ascended the stage in the magnificent Thompson-Boling Arena to the traditional strains of Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance". What made this ceremony a bit untraditional was the scope of experience among the graduates.

One member of our class recently completed her doctoral degree from an ivy league university. Another graduate, from kindergarten, bashfully held her mother's hand as she walked toward the stage. Some of the high school graduates donned caps and gowns. All sported beaming smiles as they listened to the remarks of the graduation speaker, Dr. James Pallante. Dr. Pallante, an OM Board Member, is Dean of the College of Health, Education and Human Resources at the University of Scranton, in PA.

Dr. Pallante said that by their presence, these scholars, (both those young in age and those young in spirit) articulate a very important philosophy: Education is not an antechamber where one waits and prepares for life. For these students, learning is a part of daily living. They understand the value of using their minds and testing new ideas. The ideas that flow in their world are those that they apply creatively—to solve problems. They live what Goethe expressed when he said, "A man doesn't understand anything unless he loves it."

Each "graduate" received a special OM graduation certificate as a memento. Dr. Sam presented these ceremoniously, with his usual level of love and enthusiasm.

#### *The graduates were:*

Erica Jane Marcus, age 5, St. James Kindergarten, Merrimack, NH  
 Natalia Garza, High School, Mexico  
 Vanessa Goddard, High School, Mexico  
 Nuria Landon, High School, Mexico  
 Mario Valdez, High School, Mexico  
 Tatiana Vallejo, High School, Mexico  
 Kendrick Todd Brewster, Tazewell H.S., Tazewell, VA  
 Tara Elaine Brodle, Riverton H.S., Riverton, WY  
 Kristian Dernbach, Stergeon Bay H.S., Stergeon Bay, WI  
 Andrew Olson, Stergeon Bay H.S., Stergeon Bay, WI  
 Brandon Powell, Stergeon Bay H.S., Stergeon Bay, WI  
 Mary Ellen Haas, MSW from Southern Connecticut State University  
 Joan Pallante, Doctoral Degree from the University of Pennsylvania



# 1991 WORLD FINALS CHAMPIONS



## OMER'S BUGGY LITE: Div. II

**First Place:** Boonville JHS  
Boonville, Indiana  
Coach: Elizabeth Rudolph  
Team members: Alison Baum  
Megen Burnham  
Charlie Dill  
Emily Lindsay  
Peter Rudolph  
Bobby Wilson

**Second Place:** Cole Middle Sch  
Denver, Colorado  
Coaches: Susan Eagar & Brenda Ward  
Team members: Amanda Bollacker  
Lauren Eagar  
Michelle DePrenger-Levin  
Tim Far  
Jeff Schott  
Carla Weaver

**Third Place:** C. E. Williams Mid Sch Tm I  
Charleston, South Carolina  
Coaches: Courtney and Duncan Burns  
Team members: Jessica Burns  
Kaya Carter  
Alan Ehrlich  
William Horne  
Brian Mock  
Chris O'Driscoll  
Alex Rosen

**Fourth Place:** Andover Ele Sch  
Andover, Minnesota

**Fifth Place:** Queens Lake Sch  
Williamsburg, Virginia

**Sixth Place:** Genevieve Didion Ele Sch  
Sacramento, California

## OMER'S BUGGY LITE: Div. III

**First Place:** Nogales High Sch  
Fullerton, California  
Coach: Stephen Ludlam  
Team members: Paul Chen  
T.C. Cheng  
Jane Kuo  
Thuar Mai  
Sebastian Marcelino  
Hiev Nguyen  
Steve Silva

**Second Place:** Central Valley High Sch  
Spokane, Washington  
Coach: Donna Graham  
Team members: Erik Anderson  
Kathy Clark  
Minh Duong  
Paul Komarek  
Teavor Neal  
Mike Pottratz  
Sabrina Zehm

**Third Place:** Science Hill High Sch  
Johnson City, Tennessee  
Coach: Carolyn Paduch  
Team members: Mark Charles  
Daniel Clark  
Jeff Clark  
Scott Farmer  
Michelle Paduch  
Wendy Spears  
Belle Welt

**Fourth Place:** Barnwell High Sch  
Barnwell, South Carolina

**Fifth Place:** Owasso Gifted and  
Talented Prog  
Owasso, Oklahoma

**Sixth Place:** Meyers Park High Sch Tm A  
Charlotte, North Carolina

## OMER'S BUGGY LITE: Div. IV

**First Place:** Richland College  
Richland, Texas  
Coach: Rebecca Williams  
Team members: Melissa Baxter  
Laura Graham  
David Hanson  
Eddie Harrison  
Kevin McKinney  
Joe Vines  
Rick Winston

**Second Place:** Sierra Nevada College  
Sierra, Nevada  
Coach: Chuck Levitan & Sue Welsch  
Team members: Caroline Burrell  
Steve McKelvey  
Pat Bean  
John Noneman  
Paul Honeywell  
Glen Steinkopff

## GIVE AND GO: Div. I

**First Place:** C L Stingley Ele Sch  
Centerville, Ohio  
Coach: Joe Servaites  
Team members: Scott Dyer  
Brian Kreiner  
Jon Lageman  
Elizabeth Lundgren  
Maggie Mechlin  
Grif Schaffer  
Jeff Servaites

**Second Place:** Reach Prog B  
Dallas, Texas  
Coaches: Kent Densing & Linda Ehrle  
Team members: Andrew Bell  
Beth Boulden  
Eric Densing  
Anjea Ehrle  
Breezy Martin  
Elizabeth Reap  
Peter Ruth

**Third Place:** Ellicott Ele Sch  
Orchard Park, New York  
Coach: Diane Nash  
Team members: John Bevilacqua  
Laura Day  
Stacey Fintak  
Becky Forth  
Nathaniel Merrill  
Becky Murphy  
Keenan Ormond

**Fourth Place:** Fawn Hollow Sch  
Monroe, Connecticut

**Fifth Place:** Heber Springs Gate Prog  
Heber Springs, Arkansas

**Sixth Place:** Newberry Ele Sch  
Newberry, Massachusetts

## GIVE AND GO: Div. II

**First Place:** Cole Mid Sch  
Denver, Colorado  
Coaches: Susan Anderson &  
Brenda Ward  
Team members: Chris Anderson  
David Beasley  
Spencer Bellows  
Ian Kenison  
George Karpouzou  
Jon Lehmann  
Scott Rodgers

**Second Place:** Guinyard Butler Mid Sch  
Barnwell, South Carolina  
Coach: Ross Davis  
Team members: David Hill  
Philip Hutto  
Nancy Lemon  
Laurie Moskow  
Church Powers  
Londe Sanders  
Marc Smith

**Third Place:** Maple Grove JHS Tm A  
Maple Grove, Minnesota  
Coach: Russ Nahorniak  
Team members: Bob DeHaven  
Kelly Erickson  
John Hegstrand  
Jill Jenneke  
Sara Ostroot  
Barry Schreiner  
Kate Stimson

**Fourth Place (tie):** Jiam Ping Mid Sch  
China

**Fourth Place (tie):** St. Clairsville Mid  
Sch Tm A  
St. Clairsville, Ohio

**Fifth Place:** Jr. High TAG Prog A  
Chesterfield, Missouri

**Sixth Place:** Forest Hills Central Mid Sch  
Ada, Michigan

## GIVE AND GO: Div. III

**First Place:** Corunna High Sch  
Morrice, Michigan  
Coaches: George and Judy Flynn  
Team members: Mark Elkins  
Daniel Flynn  
Jamie Jo Flynn  
Shawn Ginger  
April Mc Creadie  
Michelle Sweet

**Second Place:** Eli Whitney Museum  
Hamden, Connecticut  
Coach: William F. Brown  
Team members: Ben Cichy  
Molly Hay  
Clint Mueller  
Kristen Nelson  
Robert Prestegard  
John Rogers

**Third Place:** N. Olmstead Enrich Prog A  
North Olmstead, Ohio  
Coaches: Robert & Laura Parry &  
Larry Willis

Team members: Jim Bognar  
Dan Cook  
Jason Parry  
Jon Parry  
Sagar Patel  
Rich Thrush  
Becky Willis

**Fourth Place:** Lord Botetourt High Sch  
Blue Ridge, Virginia

**Fifth Place:** Lincoln High Sch  
El Paso, Texas

**Sixth Place:** Ogdenburg Plus Prog C  
Ogdenburg, New York



# 1991 WORLD FINALS CHAMPIONS *(continued)*



**Third Place (tie):** Northboro Mid Sch  
Tm B

Northboro, Massachusetts  
Coach: Pat Montimurro  
Team members: Arati Bagal  
Matthew Casagrande  
Shannon Delage  
Emily Engel  
Stephen Fernia  
Matthew Fragala  
Benjamin Mack

**Fourth Place (tie):** Gate Prog  
Monarch Beach, California

**Fourth Place (tie):** Loyalsock Township  
Mid Sch  
Williamsport, Pennsylvania

**Fifth Place:** Sylvania McCord JHS  
Toledo, Ohio

**Sixth Place:** Pierre Intermediate Prog  
Pierre, South Dakota

## POMPEII: Div. III

**First Place:** Highland Park High Sch  
Dallas, Texas  
Coach: Susan McCormick  
Team members: Chris Campbell  
Billy Crain  
McKay Cunningham  
Dylan Jones  
Deborah Long  
Stephanie March

**Second Place:** Gig Harbor High Sch  
Tacoma, Washington  
Coach: Bobbi Frankel  
Team members: Aaron English  
Sasha Erickson  
Erin Foster  
Sara Malmin  
Michele Marques  
Trevor Sands

**Third Place:** Thomas Jefferson High Sch  
Denver, Colorado  
Coach: Tom & Joe Mauro and  
Anne Edwards  
Team members: Molly Gower  
Melissa Lewis  
Amy Mauro  
Kari McCallie  
Julie Sorenson  
LaTrisha Underhill

**Fourth Place:** Ogdenburg Plus Prog C  
Ogenburg, New York

**Fifth Place:** Plus: Blytheville High Sch  
Blytheville, Arkansas

**Sixth Place:** North Clackamas TAG  
Prog E  
Clakamus, Oregon

## POMPEII: Div. IV

**First Place:** The State University at  
Geneseo  
Geneseo, New York  
Coach: Conni Brott  
Team members: Luann Boulio  
Alan Brott  
Conni Brott  
Juliet Lauber  
Mike Sisson  
Laura Venable

**Second Place:** University of Nebraska  
at Kearney  
Kearney, Nebraska  
Coach: Diane Boerkircher  
Team members: Scott Blankenbaker  
Ron Jay  
Krissa Polinski  
Scott Shields  
Mark Schnitzler  
Becky Winbolt

**Third Place:** Discovery Lab: WV  
University  
Morgantown, West Virginia  
Coach: Scott Warner  
Team members: Young Han Hahm  
Justine Swaney  
Eric Ting  
Scott Warner  
Laura Whoolery

**Fourth Place:** University of Denver  
Denver, Colorado

## SUPER COLLIDER: Div. I

**First Place:** Carson Ele Sch Tm A  
Denver, Colorado  
Coaches: Dave and Jan Davis  
Team members: Corey Davis  
Haley Gerkin  
Laura Graham  
Andrea Lake  
Michelle Oetter  
Lesley Sylvan

**Second Place:** Southside Sch  
El Dorado, Arkansas  
Coach: Carol Daugherty &  
Karen Greer  
Team members: Matt Dixon  
Carrie Daugherty  
Kristen Greer  
Derek Huston  
Luke Morton  
Bryabd Reibe  
Chris Wagnon

## POMPEII: Div. I

**First Place:** Bantam Ridge Ele Sch  
Wintersville, Ohio  
Coaches: Robert & Kathy Burns;  
Bruce & Toni Dodzila  
Team members: Ashley Babaryk  
Rachel Burns  
Nicholas Dondzila  
Julie Ellsworth  
Justin Gosney  
Justine Pratt  
Jeremy Stacy

**Second Place:** Crystal Prog  
Oregon, Wisconsin  
Coaches: Penny Paster &  
Donna Thayer

Team members: Ann Barry  
Tony Callahan  
Phil Natkins  
DeeDee Paster  
Eli Paster  
Anna Thayer

**Third Place (tie):** Central Ele Sch Tm B  
Lawrenceburg, Indiana  
Coaches: Gary Tyler &  
Denise Kaffenberger  
Team members: Kendra Conover  
Adam Gilliam  
Shaun Holliday  
Stacey Kaffenberger  
Jerad LeBretton  
Craig Pennington  
Shawn Wilkening

**Third Place (tie):** Hutchison Sch Tm B  
Memphis, Tennessee  
Coach: Ronell Brindell  
Team members: Jenny Brindell  
Taylor Chafin  
Dorothy Henderson  
Kathryn Kaiser  
Ashley Kellum  
Kate Patterson  
Candace Woods

**Fourth Place (tie):** Lewis and Clark Ele Sch  
Missoula, Montana

**Fourth Place (tie):** Greenwood Ele Sch  
Englewood, Colorado

**Fourth Place (tie):** Deer Path Mid Sch  
Tm A  
Lake Forest, Illinois

**Fifth Place:** Makefield Ele Sch  
Morrisville, Pennsylvania

**Sixth Place:** Philadelphia Enrich Prog  
Philadelphia, Mississippi

## POMPEII: Div. II

**First Place:** Vienna Sch  
Vienna, West Virginia  
Coach: Julie Gaskins  
Team members: Josh Bocook  
Arun Dotson  
Megan George  
Beth Jones  
Ashley Mahood  
Emily Taylor  
Marianne Tumbokon

**Second Place (tie):** Stuart Hobson Mid Sch  
Washington, D.C.  
Coach: Sarah Hill  
Team members: Taledoa Banks  
Vasha Carter  
Kara Fenske  
Alex King  
Beth O'Brien  
Sarah Raimo  
Sara Rimensnyder

**Second Place (tie):** Clinton JHS 7  
Clinton, Mississippi  
Coach: Gina Berry  
Team members: Bridget McCart  
Maria Maziarz  
Carey Miller  
Michael Porter  
Nichole Saad  
Jamie Sharp  
William Wheeler

**Third Place (tie):** Rogers JHS  
El Dorado, Arkansas  
Coaches: Jan Rudder & Esther Byrd  
Team members: Sean Bowman  
Adam Buchanan  
De Byrd  
Jo Byrd  
Josh Castoe  
Wade Murphy  
Brandi Parker

**Third Place (tie):** Faith Sch  
Ft. Benning, Georgia  
Coach: Libbie Kurinec  
Team members: Rae Leigh Dame  
Arvis Layton  
Greg Mascheck  
Elizabeth Moore  
Brooke Newey  
Page Novier  
Racheal Novier

**Third Place (tie):** Danville Bate Mid  
Sch Tm II

Danville, Kentucky  
Coaches: Jane McKune &  
Deborah Peckler  
Team members: Racheal Ruth Coburn  
Amanda Jackson  
Patricia Jurgensen  
Anne B. McKune  
Danae Peckler  
Emily Wheat  
Lori Thompson



# 1991 WORLD FINALS CHAMPIONS *(continued)*

**Third Place:** Martin Ele Sch  
Waldorf, Maryland  
Coaches: Gayle & Randy Crowder  
Team members: Ashley Bonifant  
Randy Crowder, Jr.  
Chad Nelson  
Josh Pinkey  
Ryan Lancaster  
Sara Turner  
Michelle Welch

**Fourth Place:** Salem Gifted and  
Talented Prog  
Salem, Virginia

**Fifth Place (tie):** Brooklyn Sch Tm II  
Brooklyn, Indiana

**Fifth Place (tie):** Western Hills ELP Prog  
West Des Moines, Iowa

**Sixth Place:** Morton Attendance Center  
Tm A  
Morton, Mississippi

## **SUPER COLLIDER: Div. II**

**First Place:** Tubbs Ele Sch  
Lubbock, Texas  
Coach: Barbara Curbo  
Team members: Sarah Burke  
Chantel Curbo  
Adam Gallardo  
Cardelia Howell  
Anson Thompson  
Tim Williamson

**Second Place:** Tower Heights Mid Sch  
Centerville, Ohio  
Coach: David Hughes  
Team members: Matt Coatney  
David Dobrowski  
Steve Donauer  
Emily Hughes  
Raegan Mallaney  
Libby O'Bryan  
Jamie Servaites

**Third Place:** Woodrow Wilson Mid Sch  
Tm A  
Edison, New Jersey  
Coach: Dan Semenza  
Team members: James Chen  
Gaurav Chowdhary  
Brian Cusack  
Chester Huang  
Nishan Kottahachehi  
David Strozzi  
Jerry Wang

**Fourth Place:** Berkshire Mid Sch  
Birmingham, Michigan

**Fifth Place:** Watson Sixth Grade Sch  
El Dorado, Arkansas

**Sixth Place (tie):** Valley Springs Mid Sch  
Arden, North Carolina

**Sixth Place (tie):** Oneida Mid Sch  
Schenectady, New York

**Sixth Place (tie):** Poquoson Mid Sch  
Poquoson, Virginia

## **SUPER COLLIDER: Div. III**

**First Place:** T C Roberson High Sch  
Skyland, North Carolina  
Coach: Vicky Best  
Team members: Rodney Anderson  
George Boussios  
Theo Helm  
Jacob Peart  
Brian Pike  
Michael Louis Shepard  
Reagan Smith

**Second Place:** George Washington  
High Sch Tm B  
Denver, Colorado  
Coach: BJ Scott  
Team Members: Erin Cierpial  
Tom Potter  
Dominique Reneau  
Binh Vo  
Dien Vo  
Brenda Wilson

**Third Place:** Wando High Sch  
Mt Pleasant, South Carolina  
Coach: Christopher Holley  
Team members: Tim Crews-Anderson  
Ernest Beck  
Nathan Bender  
Thomas Cobb  
Christopher Holley  
Ellen Middaugh  
Heather Reynolds

**Fourth Place:** Thomas Stone High Sch  
Waldorf, Maryland

**Fifth Place:** J P Stevens High Sch  
Edison, New Jersey

**Sixth Place:** Crescent Valley High Sch  
Corvallis, Oregon



## **TRANSFORMATION: Div. I**

**First Place:** Blue Valley Enrich Prog A  
Overland Park, Kansas  
Coach: Telia Gilcrest  
Team members: Michael Bunn  
Michael Carter  
Jason Lucas  
Kim Nicholas  
Maira Pyle  
Sarah Ream  
Wei-An Yu

**Second Place:** Hopi School Tm A  
Phoenix, Arizona  
Coach: Suzy Van Sickle  
Team members: Ali Gibney  
Katie Marrie  
Rachel Ponce  
Jeremy Steenblik  
Meredith Thomson  
Matt Van Sickle

**Third Place:** Shaeffer Ele Sch  
Littleton, Colorado  
Coaches: Janet Godfrey &  
Linda Jurgemeyer  
Team members: Becky Bennett  
Jeff Foster  
Jenna Godfrey  
Tracey Ketcham  
Chris Linton  
Mike McDermott

**Fourth Place (tie):** Swanson Ele Sch  
Omaha, Nebraska

**Fourth Place (tie):** Homecroft Ele Sch  
Duluth, Minnesota

**Fifth Place:** Thornell Road Sch  
Pittsford, New York

**Sixth Place:** Deer Path Mid Sch Tm A  
Lake Forest, Illinois

## **TRANSFORMATION: Div. II**

**First Place:** Shaeffer Ele Sch Tm A  
Littleton, Colorado  
Coach: Sheila Swanson  
Team members: Annie Fabik  
Casey Feinstein  
Jeff Hutchinson  
Jenni Kelly  
Jennifer Larson  
Justin Stitt  
Ian Swanson

**Second Place:** Windham Mid Sch  
Windham, New Hampshire  
Coaches: Debbie Bush &  
Judy Newcomb

Team members: Kim Bush  
Jerremy Dunn  
Christopher Graham  
Eddie Hubbard  
Brian Irwin  
Kathy Newcomb  
Erin O'Reilly

**Third Place:** Boys and Girls INV Club  
Toyota City, Japan  
Coaches: Takeshi Muraki &  
Keiko Sakai

Team members: Tomokazu Ito  
Kenji Mori  
Naotao Oka  
Maki Shimizu  
Naomi Shiotani  
Shunsuke Taki  
Masayoshi Tange

**Fourth Place:** Westside Mid Sch  
Omaha, Nebraska

**Fifth Place:** Bell Oaks Sch Tm A  
Bellmawr, New Jersey

**Sixth Place:** Ingleside Mid Sch  
Phoenix, Arizona



## **BANNER CONTEST WINNERS**

California—1st Place  
New Hampshire—2nd Place  
Oklahoma—3rd Place

## **Semi-Finalists:**

(in alphabetical order)

Delaware	Mississippi
Florida	Missouri
Georgia	Montana
Kentucky	Nebraska
Mexico	Pennsylvania

## OM Notes

- \* Barbara Mann, Association Director in Massachusetts, reports that Massachusetts OM allows teams to register for regional competition under the "non-competitive" status. This gives teams with a "non-competitive philosophy" the opportunity to perform without being scored, and to see other creative OM solutions.

Massachusetts OM will soon have a computer and laser printer donated by IBM. Raina Harris, an IBM employee who has been the Massachusetts' Structure Problem Captain and state board member for the last 4 years, is obtaining the equipment through IBM community funds.

- \* IBM in Atlanta has also been generous to Georgia OM. IBM donated \$1500 to for the creation of a Georgia Odyssey of the Mind poster. This poster features a school of fish evolving into birds with wings. The copy reads, "When creativity evolves, the possibilities are endless."

- \* John Anderson, Association Director in Utah, was the 1991 Utah Teacher of the Year recipient. John received a special plaque and a personal IBM computer as recognition for this achievement.

- \* Mexico OM reports that the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey would like to exchange information for educational enrichment. As a private institution, it offers courses to both senior high school and university students. Its senior high school Mathematics Department is looking for academic interchanges with other institutions—specifically to obtain information about contests, conventions, or courses for teachers and students as these relate to teaching math. If interested in organizing some kind of exchange, contact:

Maria Jose Garcia, Principal  
Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de  
Monterrey

Campus Ciudad De Mexico  
Fray Servando Teresa de Mier # 99,  
APDO. Postal 29-041, C.P. 06721, Mexico, D.F.

- \* Barbara Barcume is a member of the Michigan OM Board of Directors and has judged competitions on Regional, State and World Finals levels. She wrote us to let us know that the principles of OM are never far from an OMer's heart. She writes: *When [her] son Todd, hung up his OM shirt, he thought that phase of his life was over. Even though he judged at regional and state competitions, he missed the creative challenge that being a team member had given him for 10 years. Then one weekend he was telling me about an assignment in his physics class on light and color. It had strict limitations about length and content. To get a grade higher than "C", the material had to be technically correct...and presented in an interesting and unusual manner.*

*"That sounds like OM style to me," I commented. Well, the challenge was on. The search for unique ways to present ordinary principles led to many different efforts and ideas built upon ideas. At one point Todd commented, "If only I had some of my old team members here, we could knock his socks off!"*


*The finished project was unique, memorable and even humorous. Yes, it was a lot of work, but the effort was a joy.*

- \* Nancy Blizzard is the OM coordinator in a middle school in Charles County, Maryland. She reports that all 5 Division II teams from Benjamin Stoddert Middle School received an invitation to be the *only* non-adult presenters at "Science Camp". This is an overnight activity organized for students in St. Mary's County. Nancy says that the OM spirit has not yet officially reached this Maryland county. However, after the PR effort of Benjamin Stoddert, we expect to welcome new, first-time members from St. Mary's County, Maryland this year.
- \* Three OM participants were awarded scholarships through the OM scholarship program with GMI Engineering and Management Institute of Flint, Michigan. The three are Marcus David Christensen of Greenville Michigan; Benjamin Ted Lingenfelter of Houghton, New York; and Ryan John Lothian of Greenville, Michigan. OM congratulates these recipients and thanks GMI for their continued support of our scholarship program. Any individual, organization, or institution wishing to become an OM Scholarship Sponsor, should contact Dr. Karen Verbeke, OM Scholarship Chair, c/o OM Association, P.O. Box 27, Glassboro, New Jersey 08028.

## Lost and Found

Items found at the University of Tennessee will be retrievable only through the end of July. If you are looking for items you left behind after World Finals, contact Margaret Harris at (615) 974-0250.

## Kathy Martinchek Re-Elected to the OM Board of Directors

Kathy Matinchek was re-elected to serve another three-year term on the OM Board of Directors. Kathy is presently a Regional Director in Michigan. Her association with OM began in Michigan in 1981. Kathy worked for Michigan OM first as a Coach and later as an Association Director. In addition to her current work as Regional Director in Michigan and OM Board member, Kathy is retained by the home office as one of OM's traveling consultants. 



## Another Side of Give and Go

What do you say when someone *gives* you money so a "rubber-band-powered dragon" can go back to its home in California? Well, you say, "That's really something. . . that a judge from New York would initiate a collection to send a paper and wood dragon to California!". . . or maybe you query, "Who is going to get this dragon back to California?". . . or perhaps you wonder, "What will we do if the collection doesn't cover the dragon's trek to California?" Finally, you ask, rhetorically, "How do I dismantle this dragon and get it packed and shipped to California?"

The ball started rolling at the World Finals Coaches' Recovery Party on May 25, 1991 when William Everett, Head Judge of Buggy Lite, Division III, heard that Gino Do didn't have the means to ship his prop, a rubber-band-powered dragon, back to California. (Gino received a Ranatra Fusca Award at World Finals for this creative and risky invention.) Bill, who won his own Ranatra Fusca Award from judges in New York for his creative site set-up, decided there was a way to save the dragon. He started a spontaneous collection, and in less than an hour, accumulated over \$150.

The dragon was later dismantled, moved, stored and shipped by a "team" of OM supporters. The initial sum of money collected did not fully cover the dragon's travel expense. However, additional contributions from other parties made up the difference. Plans are underway to showcase the dragon in California.

The tale of this dragon really begins with its creator, Gino Do. Gino is a 9th grade student at Andrew Hill High School in San Jose California. He has been in the U.S. for approximately 5 years, having come from Vietnam by way of Indonesia in 1983. He currently resides in California with his two younger brothers and his parents.

Gino participated in OM last year and competed in his first World Finals with a solution to Geographic Odyssey. This year, Gino and his teammates tackled the Give and Go problem. They created a moveable dragon that was powered by a twisted rope of rubber bands (one and one-half pounds worth). It was designed to move in a horizontal arc.

Built in Gino's garage, the 20-foot "monster" proved to be rather unwieldy and difficult to transport. The team also found it a challenge to find a place spacious enough to practice and test the dragon before competition. At regionals, the team discovered some design flaws and rebuilt the dragon before the state competition. At states, the team did not complete the problem within the allotted time and felt it had lost the competition. Later, when the scores were released, the spontaneous results put the team in first place at state. (The team also won a spontaneous Ranatra Fusca at World Finals) You already know the rest.

Gino leaves his teammates at Andrew Hill to attend 10th grade at another school this September. Do they have an OM program there? If not, we're sure they will after Gino arrives!



## Scholarship Winners: An Update

We recently received this letter from Mark Olsen, OM Scholarship Winner from 1990:

"Thank you again for the OM scholarship. . . I have now completed my freshman year. . . I will continue to take classes and work on basic cancer research this summer in the Medicinal Chemistry Department inside the College of Pharmacy.

"The experiments have yielded exciting results to date, [but] not one has been anticipated. I have found that the OM experience has been crucial in dealing with bizarre results. Creativity is invaluable in evaluating test results and planning for future reactions or tests. It is not unexpected that OM has more impact in research than in classes, but it is startling to realize that creativity is the second most important ingredient in cancer/chemistry after honesty, and is often the difference between successful research and mediocrity.

"I have found OM is applicable to most classes, with one unusual exception. I continue to utilize spontaneous training in mathematics and have solved several problems unlike every other student in the lecture. I am finding that the balsa wood problems allowed me to understand basic physics principles far more rapidly than my peers because I just experienced applying the concepts in wood rather than just on a chalkboard. Even style has an academic application! Designing an OM style is similar to designing an English essay. Because I am a "Techy," neither are particularly enjoyable, but I have survived freshman English with a decent grade.

"I will now briefly explain the one exception. This quarter I am taking independent Chinese 101. According to the Chinese professor, we are learning the language just as the people learn their mathematics or language. We are to memorize phrases until we are able to link them into an intelligible conversation! If I continue to search, I may find an application of OM to traditional Chinese instruction methods, but I cannot say I have succeeded to date.

"Again, I would like to thank you for the scholarship. In addition to writing this letter, I have given back to OM by serving as a weigh-in judge at the Ohio Region 9 and the Ohio State Competition. The judging is very different from competing, but I must say it was enjoyable and enlightening as well."

Sincerely,

Mark Olsen

## A Transformation of Team Members

Melissa Spruills is from Fairview, NC and is one of Fairview Elementary School's OM coaches. This is excerpted from her speech, presented at the Teams' Awards Dinner.

*When we first signed up for Transformation, we thought it was simple, just show something change five times.*

*Simple?*

*It was anything but simple.*

*Someone suggested that our time period should be Ancient Japan, so for the sake of argument, that's what was decided. We knew little about Japan, but soon we learned about Boy's Day, Kimonos, Pagodas, Dragons, Haiku Poetry and Music.*

*Who thought of dragons? I don't remember. I do remember that we struggled through the first two stages and came to a stalemate on the third; but our three new OMers finished the story.*

*Some of our tries with props failed, but our team seemed to have the determination: "Where there's a will, there's a way."*

*I'll never forget the pride you all took in sewing your own kimonos, creating your own designs for the backdrop and putting on a finished garment that you had made yourself.*

*We came a long way in six months, from a group of kids and two adults who were going to try to win first place. . . to a team of hard workers and two coaches who think their kids are winners.*


*We've watched you figure out the impossible, work together instead of apart and use your imaginations to create a solution.*

*You are winners, every one of you.*

## OM Teen Party – A Dual Meaning For This Duet

The stars shone brightly on a warm Saturday evening as Kyle MacLea went to pick up his date for the Londonderry High School Junior Prom. With a corsage gingerly tucked under his arm, he knocked on her door — in Morrill Dorm on the University of Tennessee campus.

Kyle asked Shari O'Kula to attend the prom several weeks ago. That was before the New Hampshire OM state competition. Londonderry High School, in New Hampshire, won the right to bring two Division II teams to the 1991 World Finals in Tennessee. One competed in Buggy Lite and the other in Pompeii. Shari was on one team and Kyle was on the other.

The teen party on Saturday, May 25, became a substitute for their prom night. All the OMers in the dorm enjoyed seeing the couple leave for their special evening. Their parents snapped pictures. Later, they all celebrated Shari's 17th birthday. 



## The Poet's Corner

From time to time, Omer's mailbag fills up with poems from OMers who express their feelings about OM teamwork, competing and winning. This issue seems to be an appropriate one for these particular contributions.

### The True Meaning

*By Nathaniel Gallagher,  
Lincoln Junior High School  
El Paso, TX*

We came together as school friends,  
And soon become like family,  
Working,  
Laughing  
Caring  
and Helping:  
We did it together.  
We've worked so long and hard,  
We couldn't have done it alone,  
And now it's time to push ourselves;  
We're going right to the limit.  
Awards and trophies mean nothing,  
It's the spirit and teamwork that count.  
And when the competition is over,  
We'll all come out on top.  
We've done our best and proved ourselves,  
And given all we've got.  
We know the true meaning of OM,  
Whether we win or not.

### Have You Ever Been on an OM Team?

*By Julie Lisavich, Age 7  
McCarthy Middle School,  
Chelmsford, MA*

Have you ever been on an OM team?  
Have you ever been writing a script?  
When the story you write is real funny,  
And when performing do you slip?

Have you ever been on an OM team?  
And got stuck at a spontaneous set?  
Before your turn, you had an answer,  
But when it's your time you forget?

Have you ever been on an OM team?  
And you just left with the props?  
And while you're up on the stage,  
Your scenery, all of it drops?

Have you ever been on an OM team?  
Where you know you are losing the race?  
And when they announce the winners,  
Your team winds up in first place!

# “OM is what it’s about. . .OM is something to shout!”



*“All good things which exist are the fruits of originality.”*

—John Stuart Mill



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## Odyssey of the Mind

P. O. Box 27, Glassboro, New Jersey 08028

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The Odyssey of the Mind newsletter is published by OM Association, Inc., P.O. Box 27, Glassboro, NJ 08028. Individual subscription yearly rate: North America \$8; outside of North America \$10. Executive editors: Dr. Samuel Micklus and Janet Vincz.

**IBM** Corporate Sponsor

### *Briefly Speaking*

The OM Board of Directors met on May 27, 1991. At the time of their meeting, minutes from the March 17, 1991 meeting were approved.

These motions were made and carried:

- \* To require the OM treasurer to have no affiliation to a company with which OM has contractual agreements.
- \* To amend Section I A. 3 of the OM by-laws effective August 1, 1991: Three board members will be appointed by the Board of Directors; with one selected from a slate of three candidates consisting of past or present chartered association directors.
- \* The membership report was approved. It showed a total of 9,100 members with Texas first, Michigan second.

These points of information were shared:

- \* \$5,000 of R&D money will be released to begin work on two books. These will be based on material used in the curriculum guides for the last three years.
- \* Ann Lewin, founder of the Children's Capital Museum will be the recipient of the Odyssey of the Mind Creativity Award at World Finals.

### **IN MEMORY**

Josh Boll, 15, was a 3-year participant in our OM program and a creative, intelligent boy who loved solving problems. We mourn his passing with those who knew him in Waupaca, Wisconsin—those whose lives he touched.

### **HAT/FLOAT WINNERS**

Colorado—1st Place  
Oklahoma—2nd Place  
Maine—3rd Place

#### **Semi-Finalists:**

(in alphabetical order)

Arizona  
California  
Florida  
Georgia  
Iowa  
Massachusetts  
Montana  
New York  
Oregon  
West Virginia

### **COACHES AND OFFICIALS CONTEST WINNERS**

#### **Coaches (Purist Division):**

1st: John Stocker, Santa Barbara, California  
2nd: Harry Williams, Tucson, Arizona  
3rd: Joe Servaites, Centerville, Ohio

#### **Coaches (Poetic License Division):**

1st: Hiroo Ichikawa, Toyota City, Japan  
2nd: Jan Sargent, Klamath Falls, Oregon  
3rd: Bob Wilkerson, Montgomery City, Missouri

#### **Officials:**

1st: Lyn Kestenholtz, Lansing, Michigan  
2nd: David Valentine, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin