

The OSSM Alumni Association NEWSLETTER

Edited by Melissa Nestor

Autumn 2017

Volume 2 Issue 1

OSSMAA Update

Melissa Nestor

Greetings Everyone!

The Alumni Association has been working hard in the past year to plan events. We have had our Summer Reunion and a gathering in Tulsa. OSSMAA also participated in the Halloween Festivities at the school. Next up is the Winter Reunion on Saturday, December 30th. Expect more specific information later this month. Lastly, new this year OSSMAA will have an event on April 28th after the Class of 2020 Interviews.

If you are interested in helping at any of these events, please let us know! Your OSSMAA Board is very small. We are always looking for people to help. You need not live in the OKC metro area to be involved. You need not be on the OSSMAA Board to help either. We can always use a few extra hands. In addition to help with events, we are also seeking specific help in accounting, non-profits, web design, and newsletter editing.

Lastly, we are looking for pictures for our website. If you have any pics you would like to share please send them to us! We are particularly looking for "older" pictures of the OSSM campus.

As always, if you have news to share with your fellow alums or want to host a reunion in your area let us know: president@ossmaa.com.

Save the Dates

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Saturday, November 4th
Chicago Reunion with Dr. Wang

Dr. Wang will be at the Bistro in Field Museum from 1-3 to meet with alums. For the latest information on Dr. Wang's whereabouts in Chicago please check Facebook.

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Saturday, December 30th
All-Class Winter Reunion

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Saturday, April 28th
Class of 2020 Interview Day After Party

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Saturday, May 26th, 10AM
Class of 2018 Graduation

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Message from Dr. Wang

Frank Wang

I write this article from Chicago where I along with Dean of Students Dr. Wilson are attending a meeting of administrators and teachers from schools like OSSM. The conference ends this evening (Friday, November 3, 2017).

Tomorrow, I will be hosting a mini-reunion for Chicago area OSSM alumni. Meeting and keeping up with alumni is one of the most gratifying aspects of my job.

Already, since starting work here at OSSM in August 2012, I have attended one wedding of a former student who graduated under my watch: Nadya Mamedova, Class of 2013. She married another former OSSM student, Garrett Jones, Class of 2012. (Sadly, I also attended a funeral - that of Max Fuller, Class of 2013.) Recently, I saw on Facebook that Tiffany Slager (Mehagan when she was a student here) of the Class of 2013 is pregnant so the baby when born will be my first OSSM baby while serving as OSSM president.

It is wonderful seeing how the young people who have I have seen around the OSSM campus

as students are now progressing with their lives. For example, this coming Saturday, I will be hosting a reunion at the world-famous Chicago Field Museum. Destiny Reeves, OSSM Class of 2013, works at the museum and will

provide free passes to OSSM alumni who attend. There is a nice bistro on site and I cover the cost of refreshments for the alumni who attend.

Already, since becoming president at OSSM, I have hosted 5 reunions in Boston, 2 in New York City, 1 in Washington DC, 1 in Plano Texas, 2 at Princeton University, 1 at Northwestern University in Evanston Illinois, and 1 at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Also, my predecessor Dr. Manning hosted a reunion for Houston area alumni at her Lake Conroe Texas home.

Wherever OSSM alumni end up, I will make an effort to see. Once a member of the OSSM family and community, always a member of the OSSM family and community! I encourage current students to remain in touch with us here at OSSM wherever life's journey may bring them.

All the best, Frank Wang

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PAOSSM Corner

Catherine Armitage

Lots going on at OSSM!

International Night was AMAZING! We had almost the entire student body as well as family for dinner in the Great Hall. Tables were decorated with personal cultural artifacts and there was lots of dancing! There is talk of putting together a cookbook. If you have recipes, photos or memories from your International Night, please email them to paossm.edu on the OSSM website.

The Senior Practice Interview Night & Mocktail party is in its 4th year under the able guidance of counselor Terry Berryman. Alums - this is a great

way to help the school and fun too (Terry can be reached at terry.berryman@ossm.edu)

OSSM has a newly minted GAPP (German American Partnership Program). Our German school cohort visited for 2 weeks in October and it was a rousing success! From a Hogwarts Weekend & Auf Wiedersehen courtesy of Prof. McCargish and Dorm Corps, to Flag Football, (Jr vs Sr) with a Tailgate Picnic (thanks to Coach Vossen w/ Mr. Bell on the grill). The Alumni pumpkin carving (thank you President Melissa Nestor) was a bit hit again this year. The Class of 2017 is trying something new under the guidance of parent Wendi Knowles, Exam Care Package for the Freshman facing their first college exams.

Foundation Corner

Pam Felactu

"Just after November 1, your Annual Appeal from the OSSM Foundation should arrive in your mailbox. Alumni giving has been on the rise in recent years--Thank you so much for helping make this transformative experience available to more young people like yourselves! Your gift of any amount you are able (none too small or too large!) will be of great help. You can designate your gift for specific programs AND your combined giving as Alumni in turn helps us raise grant funds from others.

Please consider designating your gift for your Class's Faculty Award for the Faculty

Endowment, perhaps in honor or memory of an esteemed faculty member. OSSM's outstanding faculty are the heart and soul of OSSM, but the

gap between state high school teacher salaries and what our largely PhD faculty can earn elsewhere has grown over the years. Modest annual retention stipends certainly do not fill the gap but supplement salaries somewhat and help make it feasible

for professors to stay at OSSM and for us to hire new people. The OSSM Faculty Endowment goal is \$10 million--We are at \$7.7 million now. Please help us secure this critical faculty retention program permanently with your gift during the 2017 Annual Appeal. Thank you!"

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Changing Faces at OSSM

Melissa Nestor

There are a lot of new faces at OSSM this year.

Bill Kuehl (pronounced keel) recently joined OSSM as Admissions Director.

Dr. Wang introduction: "He graduated from St. Olaf College some years ago and started his early work life as a campus tour guide. He later went to work in admissions in various small liberal arts colleges in Minnesota.

In the recent 8 years, he worked as the Director of Enrollment Management (that is what they call admissions directors in college) for St Gregory's College in Shawnee. He also worked for a company that performed the admissions function for Mid America Christian University."

Dr. Wang also welcomed a new assistant this past Monday, Amanda Bonnett. This is what he had to say about her: "Amanda comes to her new job here at OSSM with extensive experience in administrative support positions in educational institutions.

Most recently, she served as the assistant to Dr. Sharon Lease, VP Academic Affairs, of Mid-America Christian University (MACU). [Dr. Sharon Lease is the wife of Dr. Ken Lease, who retired in 2014 as the long-serving VP Academic Services for OSSM.]

Prior to working at MACU, Amanda worked in various capacities at Rose State College (including in the Rose State Foundation offices and the Tinker Air Force Base Satellite office). She was also the assistant to the head of SHAPE High School in Belgium. SHAPE High School is the school serving the children of the officials and staff of the NATO headquarters in Belgium.

Amanda comes to us with glowing recommendations from her prior employers and bosses including Dr. Sharon Lease. Please feel free to introduce yourself to her. I feel privileged and blessed to have such a capable assistant help me to manage my time and responsibilities."

In addition to these recent hires, there were several changes at the beginning of the academic year. Dr. Angel Wilson has come on as the Dean of Students. Dr. Manisha Chakraborty has joined the Computer Science Department and Dr. Charles Ratliff has joined the Physics Department. Dr. Brent Richards is filling in as Interim Vice President for Academic Services after Dr. Xifan Liu returned to China to care for his ailing parents. Lastly, long time Maintenance Worker, Al Shelton, has retired.

Contact OSSMAA!

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