

In the OPASsphere – March 19, 2008

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Events – Announcements

- **OSU Taking Applications for Middle-School Summer Science Camp -- Deadline April 15--** 48 Oregon middle school students will be selected to attend the ExxonMobil Bernard Harris Summer Science Camp this summer at Oregon State University campus. The application includes a student essay and recommendations from Science and Math teachers and is due Wednesday, April 15. The two-week residential camp, Aug. 4-15, offers students entering grades six, seven and eight innovative ways to enhance their knowledge of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Leadership and citizenship are main themes, and students are encouraged to stay in school. **The full cost of the camp's education program, field trips, food and lodging is covered** by a grant from the ExxonMobil Foundation and The Bernard Harris Foundation. Information on line at <http://oregon.4h.oregonstate.edu/summer-science-camp> Printed copies from Camp Coordinator Andy Hoffmann 541-737-4081 or email fourhscicamp@proaxis.com.
- **Deadline for PAESMEM Nominations is April 21 --** The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) is the highest federal recognition award for mentoring in the country. The \$10,000 award recognizes individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to mentoring of students at any of several educational levels from underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Awardees are invited to Washington, D.C. for a visit to the White House, photos with the President (his schedule permitting), presentation of a citation signed by the President and a working session on mentoring at the National Science Foundation. For more info on nominating individuals or organizations, please see <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2004/nsf04525/nsf04525.htm#toc> (**deadline 21 April, 2009**) or contact Daphne Rainey via drainey@nsf.gov. *Thanks to Ron Tenison.*
- **Math Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) Engineering Your Future Family Conference 2009 –** April 11, 2009 on the PSU campus. This conference is designed to help middle and high school students and their families learn about engineering majors, career paths, and the college planning process. For more info -- <http://mesa.pdx.edu/> or email ormesa@pdx.edu. For the first time, this event is open to public, not just MESA students. Content and delivery will target students and families from groups which are underrepresented in the engineering disciplines.
- **Oregon Game Project Challenge (OGPC) Registration for middle school teams** has been extended to **March 31, 2009 --** https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=cyl_2bFFRRiP58zGvAzXRB_2fA_3d_3d_- - We would love to see you at the State Competition, May 16, 2009 at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Oregon. Contact us at ogpc@techstart.org with questions. High school registration has closed; to be placed on a waiting list please contact Dianna Bancke at dianna.bancke@techstart.org.

The OPAS Vision is that all Oregonians have the opportunity to choose and successfully pursue engineering or applied science as their field of study and career, thereby helping Oregon's industries contribute to state economic needs, and innovate and prosper in the global economy.

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- Space is still available – the Oregon University System and Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth are collaborating on a **Family Science and Technology Day on Robotics** at Portland State University on **April 4, 2009**. Content and delivery are aimed at TAG students in grades 7-10. For more information -- http://opas.ous.edu//Events/JHU_CTY_2009_marketing.html. **Registration closes Monday, May 30, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. Pacific (5:00 p.m. Eastern)**. For attendees from groups underrepresented in the engineering disciplines and needing financial assistance to attend, please contact Jo Oshiro at jo_oshiro@ous.edu or 503.821.1139.

Events – Wrap Up

- Jo once again had the pleasure of visiting the Science and Math Investigative Learning Experiences (SMILE) **Engineering Middle School Challenge at WOU and OSU** on March 6, 2009. This year students made a “wind” (compressed air) powered generator and wired house lights after studying gear ratios and circuitry. At least one team managed to get as far as coupling the two. The presentation by the OSU Mechanical Engineering Capstone students, who made a demonstration vehicle powered by compressed air was especially informative both for the engineering and the SMILE/ OSU student interaction. Congratulations to the SMILE Program, students, club leaders, volunteers, mentor/instructors from the Math and Science Education Master’s cohort, chaperones and the OSU capstone students on a great event – academically and culturally educational, well-run, content and skill-building, collaborative, engaging.

Articles

- **“The Grand Challenge for Science and Math”**, Business Week, Vivek Wadhwa, March 9, 2009 -- http://www.businessweek.com/technology/content/mar2009/tc2009036_224059.htm -- Students may resist geek studies. But they will flock in for the opportunity to change the world. *Thanks to PLTW Friday News Blast.*

Research

- **Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE) Report** -- http://www.ccsse.org/sense/survey/SENSE_2008_National_Report_March_18.pdf -- keyed to Community Colleges, nevertheless there appear to be valuable insights for everyone interested in post-secondary education. The Powerpoint *STARTING RIGHT: Preliminary Findings from the Survey of Entering Student Engagement (SENSE)* by Angela Oriano-Darnall and Jeff Crumpley provides a useful orientation to two surveys of community college student engagement -- http://www.ccsse.org/publications/2008_workshop/Starting%20Right%20-SENSE%20Session%20CCSSE%20WORKshop%20with%20video.ppt,

Policy

- **Performance Pay for Teachers, Designing a System that Students Deserve** -- <http://www.teacherleaders.org/sites/default/files/TS2008.pdf> -- The Teacher Leaders Network Center for Learning Quality convened a “TeacherSolutions” group of 18 teachers with excellent credentials to address merit pay for teachers; they have come up with ideas that seem reasonable and ripe with possibility. Jo notes that page 28 has an excellent table contrasting “Good Teachers of Yesterday” with “Good Teachers of Today and Tomorrow”.

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