Student Highlight: Kaushal Patel

Kaushal, a senior at Putnam City West, is currently on the National Honor Roll and PCW’s student honor roll.

Away from school, Kaushal enjoys working out at the gym, cars and shopping.

Community service includes school organized blood drives and making cards for hospice patients.

Kaushal has been in Upward Bound for two years and believes the program has improved his English and exposed him to college opportunities.

Upon graduation he will study to be a dentist. Colleges he is applying to include Oklahoma City University, University of Oklahoma and OSU-Stillwater.

Donations Appreciated

Before Upward Bound students and their families headed for the Omniplex, students dropped off toy donations. Each year Mr. Boykin challenges the students to give.

Toys were divided between OSU-Oklahoma City Cowboy Kids and Community House.

Thank you to all the students who gave.
The University of Oklahoma has an annual enrollment of 28,000. Besides its main campus in Norman, OU occupies Tulsa and Oklahoma City. OU offers these programs through the following colleges: Allied Health, Architecture, Arts and Sciences, Michael F. Price College of Business, Dentistry, Continuing Education, Education, Engineering, Fine Arts, Geosciences, Graduate, Honors, Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, Law, Liberal Studies, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health and University College.

Clubs and organizations number over 200 at OU. There are activities in student government, social clubs, academic societies and service organizations. In addition, there are sixteen sororities and twenty-six fraternities on campus. OU has a state of the art workout facility and an indoor and outdoor swim complex for students. There are over thirty intramural sports in which students may participate.

Special student services are offered in the form of free tutoring in various math and English subjects, a writing center, computer labs with easy access to the Internet, Goddard Health Center, mental and emotional counseling, and career planning and placement services.

Student-faculty ratio is 17.5 to 1. Approximately 90 percent of the faculty hold doctoral degrees or the highest degree offered in their fields.

The Norman campus offers five residential halls. Students living in the housing centers have access to study lounges, postal services, game rooms, big screen TV lounges and laundry facilities. Rooms are equipped with telephones. Cable television and Internet hook-ups are available. All freshmen are required to live in university housing unless they are married, reached their 20th birthday before the beginning of the fall semester, have completed 24 hours of college credit, or will commute from a parent’s home.

To be considered for admission, Oklahoma students should be a graduate of an accredited high school and achieve a 24 ACT score.

For additional information call OU’s Prospective Student Services at (405) 325-2151 or contact Ms. Patrick at (405) 945-8626.

Career Spotlight: Dentistry

Source: Occupational Outlook Handbook

Dentists diagnose, prevent and treat teeth and tissue problems. They remove decay, fill cavities, examine x-rays, place protective plastic sealants on children’s teeth, straighten teeth and repair fractured teeth. Dentists extract teeth and make models and measurements for dentures to replace missing teeth.

Dentists in private practice oversee a variety of administrative tasks, including bookkeeping and buying equipment and supplies. They may employ and supervise dental hygienists, dental assistants, dental laboratory technicians and receptionists.

Most dentists are general practitioners, handling a variety of dental needs. Other dentists practice in one of nine specialty areas: orthodontists, straighten teeth; oral and maxillofacial surgeons, operate on the mouth and jaws; pediatric dentists, treat children; periodontists, treat gums and bones supporting the teeth; prosthodontists, replace missing teeth with permanent fixtures; endodontists, perform root canal therapy; public health dentists, promote good dental health and prevent dental diseases within the community; oral pathologists, study oral diseases; or oral and maxillofacial radiologists, diagnose diseases in the head and neck.

Most dentists work four or five days a week. Some work evenings and weekends to meet their patients’ needs. Almost all dentists work in private practice.

All fifty states and the District of Columbia require dentists to be licensed. In most states a candidate must graduate from a dental school accredited by the American Dental Association’s Commission on Dental Accreditation and pass written and practical examinations to qualify for a license.

Dental schools require a minimum of two years of college-level predental education. However, most dental students have at least a bachelor’s degree.

All dental schools require applicants to take the Dental Admissions Test (DAT). Dental school usually lasts four academic years. Most dental schools award the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS).

Dentistry requires diagnostic ability and manual skills. Dentists should have good visual memory, excellent judgment of space and shape, a high degree of manual dexterity and scientific ability. Good business sense, self-discipline and communication skills are helpful for success in private practice. High school students who want to become dentists should take courses in biology, chemistry, physics, health and mathematics.

Median annual earnings of salaried dentists were $129,030 in 2000.

If you would like more information on this profession, call the Upward Bound office at (405) 945-8623.
Check Out These Sites!

digital.nypl.org/mmpco

Searching for a historical photo to illustrate a key concept? The Picture Collection Online offers access to a wide array of over 30,000 images from the Picture Collection of the New York Public Library’s Mid-Manhattan Library. You can search by keyword or subject area.

www.biologyinmotion.com

This site contains several animations, interactive activities and cartoons that make learning biology fun. The home page looks somewhat juvenile, but the information is very helpful and easy to understand.

www.thetech.org/hyper/genome/overview.html

Having trouble understanding DNA in your biology class? This site has numerous graphics and information that will help you.

www.medtropolis.com/Body.asp

This site lets you explore the human skeleton, heart, digestive system and brain.

www.actionbioscience.org

Scientists have warned us for years about the negative impact humans are having on our environment. This site offers dozens of articles by scientists, educators and students on this issue, plus six bioscience challenges: biodiversity, genomics, biotechnology, evolution, new frontiers and bioscience education.

www.People.depauw.edu/djp/shock_maps

Learn the location of countries, states, major waterways and mountains, using this interactive site.

www.culturegrams.com

Writing a paper or conducting country specific research? Visit this site for a brief overview of the country. Along with the typical information you’d expect (flag, symbols, currency, weather, population, life expectancy, etc.), you can take a photo tour, listen to the national anthem and hear the name of the country in their language.

Show Me the Money!

If you are interested in applying for one of the items below please contact Ms. Patrick for specific submission requirements and an application/entry form.

**Bank of Oklahoma Scholarship**  
(Ten $1000 awards) Seniors  
Sponsor: Bank of Oklahoma and Nelnet Educational Services  
**Deadline: March 31, 2003**  
Must have at least a 3.0 GPA and minimum ACT/SAT scores or 20/930 and plan to attend a college or university in the state of Oklahoma. Scholarship winners will be selected from a pool of qualified applicants.

**Integris High School Educational Assistance Program**  
($1000-up) Seniors  
Sponsor: Integris Health  
**Deadline: April 1, 2003**  
Must have at least a 2.5 GPA, enroll in an accredited program for registered nursing, respiratory therapy or radiological technology and verification of application for at least two scholarships. You agree to commit 2080 hours of work at Integris, upon completion of your program and achieving proper licensure, for every $1000-$4000 of financial assistance received. Funds received may be used for tuition and books only.

**Greater Oklahoma City Alumnae Panhellenic Scholarship**  
($1000) Female Seniors  
Sponsor: Greater Oklahoma City Alumnae Panhellenic  
**Deadline: Spring 2003** (Check with your high school counselor for date)  
Must be a female graduating senior from a high school in the Greater Metropolitan Oklahoma city area, will attend an Oklahoma college/university with National Panhellenic sororities in fall 2003, and have at least a 3.0 GPA and a minimum ACT score of 22. Applications can be obtained through your high school counselor in January.

**US Bank Internet Scholarship**  
(up to 30 $1000 awards) Seniors  
Sponsor: US Bank  
**Deadline: UNKNOWN**  
Information not online yet. I have requested they notify me when it is, but you should periodically check the website yourself, www.usbank.com/studentloans.

**McDonald’s National Employee Scholarship Program**  
(51 awards, $1000-$5000) Seniors- up  
Sponsor: McDonalds  
**Deadline: March 1, 2003**  
All current McDonald’s hourly employees who work at least 15 hours per week and who have worked for a minimum of four months at McDonald’s are eligible. Up to 51 $1000 scholarships will be awarded to student employees and a $5000 “McScholar of the Year” award will be given to the employee who demonstrates the highest commitment to school, work and volunteer activities. The application will be available online January 1, 2003 at www.scholarshipadministrators.net, your access key is MCDON.
Holidays, Part II
by Janita Patrick

This is the second of a three part series on holidays celebrated around the world. If you missed the first part, please refer back to your November issue of U.B. News.

Epiphany is one of the three major Christian celebrations. It commemorates the presentation of the infant Jesus to the Magi (Three Wise Men). This celebration includes purifying rites and benedictions with water. Epiphany originally included a celebration of Christ’s birth, but in the fourth century A.D., calendar reforms moved the birth to December 25. (Armenians still celebrate the birth of Christ on January 6.) The period between December 25 and January 6 is known as the Twelve Days of Christmas. Epiphany is celebrated by most Christians on January 6 each year, but Roman Catholics celebrate it on the Sunday which falls between January 2 and January 8.

Dia de los Reyes (Three Kings Day) is the celebration of Epiphany in Mexico. The children wake up on January 6 each year, to find toys and gifts left by the Reyes Magos (Magi). In some regions it is customary to leave out shoes where treasures may be deposited by the Wise Men. A special treat served on this day is a crown shaped sweet bread decorated with jewel-like candied fruits. Tiny figures of babies are hidden in the dough before baking. There is excitement as each cuts his/her slice, for whoever gets a piece containing a baby is obliged to host another party on or before Candlemas (February 2) when the holiday season ends.

La Fete Des Rois (The Day of the Kings) is the celebration of Epiphany in France. On this day dinner concludes with the magnificent galette des rois, the Cake of the Kings. It is customary to bake a bean into the cake. Whoever receives the bean will have good luck.

Makra Sankrant (Pongal) is a festival of South India, which lasts each year from January 11-13, to celebrate the winter solstice and the coming of longer days. Special sweets and cakes with sesame seeds and brown sugar are prepared for the festival. Small silk bags containing sesame seeds mixed with sugar are offered to friends with the greeting “Eat this sweet sesame and speak sweetly to me.” The expression is intended to assure that there will be no quarreling throughout the year.

Tet Nguyen Dan starts on the first day of the first lunar month and is the first season of the new year (according to the lunar calendar), and therefore literally means “Fete of the First Day.” As the legend goes, each year on December 23 of the lunar calendar, the Kitchen God takes a ride on a carp to the Heavenly Palace to make a report on the affairs of the household on earth and then returns on December 30 to welcome the New Spring. For the Vietnamese it is above all a fete of the family. It is an opportunity for family members to meet and to welcome deceased ancestors back for a family reunion with their descendants. The “five-fruit tray” placed on the ancestral altar during the Tet holidays, symbolizes the admiration and gratitude of the Vietnamese to heaven and earth and their ancestors, and demonstrates their aspiration for a life of plenty. Poor or rich the homes will have a twig of peach blossoms (northern Vietnam) or apricot blossoms (southern Vietnam) together with a potted Kumquat. The foods that they eat are varied and diverse, but they all want to have the best and most beautiful looking food to offer their ancestors and to treat their friends and guests. For 2003, Tet Nguyen Dan is on February 1.

Holidays, Part III coming in February.