



AIS student wins "Ugly Bug" contest Intermediate school receives new optical microscope

An Altus Intermediate School sixth grader has won the 15th annual Ugly Bug Contest, sponsored by the Oklahoma Microscopy Society, and secured a high quality optical microscope for his school. Rhett Riley, a student in Mrs. Denise Phelan's science class, was the state-wide winner of the contest, submitting the ugliest bug.

The Ugly Bug Contest began in 1997 as a component of the Oklahoma Microscopy Society's outreach program called SCOPE. The goal of SCOPE as well as the Ugly Bug Contest is to "promote the awareness and usage of microscopy, as its own science, as an element of scientific literacy, and as a tool for stimulating scientific curiosity and discovery."

Each year, every school in the state is invited to enter the Ugly Bug Contest, in hopes of winning the microscopes and other microscopy learning materials offered as prizes.

Students collect, identify, and write a life history of their bugs. Bugs collected must be native to Okla-



At left, Preston Larson, an University of Oklahoma research assistant, shows sixth grader Rhett Riley how to use his school's new optical microscope. Riley won the microscope for his school by submitting the ugliest bug in the state-wide contest. Below, Riley and teacher Denise Phelan show off a print and a poster of the winning bug.

homa. The ugly bugs are submitted to the Oklahoma Microscopy Society, where they are photographed in an electron microscope. Winning bugs are selected by the society.

A group of scientists from the Oklahoma Microscopy Society visited Altus Intermediate School on April 26, to present the school with an optical microscope in honor of Rhett Riley's winning "ugly" bug, a red wasp.

They also brought with them an \$80,000 electron microscope to demonstrate live for the sixth grade students. Visiting AIS were Ernie Sanchez, physics outreach coordinator at the University of Oklahoma, and Preston Larson and



Greg Strout, research scientist with OU. While at AIS, the scientists explained how microscopes work.

Altus Intermediate School received an optical microscope, copies of the Ugly Bug poster for each student, and a high-quality

print of the electron microscope scan of the winning bug for Rhett Riley.

Participating science teachers at Altus Intermediate School were Mrs. Denise Phelan, Mrs. Kim Dickson, and Ms. Debbie Holt.

Mr. Bruce May named OASA Assistant Superintendent of the Year



Mr. Bruce May, Assistant Superintendent for Altus Public Schools

Bruce May, Assistant Superintendent for Altus Public Schools, has been named 2012 District #13 Assistant Superintendent/Central Office Administrator of the Year by the Oklahoma Association of School Administrators (OASA), Steven Crawford, Executive Director of OASA, has announced.

Bruce May is one of 20 assistant superintendents and central office administrators selected from 20 regions across the state. These administrators, who are in a separate category from the superintendents' awards program, will be recognized at the OASA awards banquet on Wednesday, June 6, during the Annual Summer Conference hosted by the Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration (CCOSA).

"Our association recognizes the valuable contributions these central office administrators make to their school districts. They are an integral part of the school leadership team," Crawford stated. He added, "We congratulate Bruce for being chosen a district winner. We appreciate the opportunity to recognize him for his outstanding leadership in his school district and community."

Bruce May has 36 years of experience in education, beginning his career in Altus in 1976. He has been in his current position as assistant superintendent for the school district since 2003. He is directly responsible for several facets of the school district, including insurance for the district, discipline and suspensions, school health services, workers compensation, food ser-

vice programs, safe calls, extended day program, transportation, security and energy management.

Other leadership roles he has held with Altus Schools include seven years as middle school principal; five years as junior high principal; three years as assistant high school principal; and two years as assistant junior high school principal. He has over 10 years of classroom experience, teaching social studies at the secondary level and coaching several sports, including basketball, football, and baseball.

The assistant superintendent is an active member of several professional organizations, including Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration, Oklahoma Association of School Administrators, and Oklahoma Association of Secondary School Principals. He is a member of the First United Methodist Church in Altus.

Mr. May is now eligible for the 2012 Oklahoma Assistant Superintendent/Central Office Administrator of the Year competition. The selection of the state winner will be announced during the CCOSA summer conference at the first general session on June 7. The Oklahoma Association of School Administrators is under the umbrella of the Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration. CCOSA is an incorporated, not-for-profit organization serving over 2,700 superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals, and central office administrators.

Sunset's Students of the Month honored



April's Students of the Month at Sunset Elementary School were honored recently. Pictured are (front row) Samantha Kiley, Katelyn Randolph, Taylor Leaf, Evan Estraca, Clayton Adams, Lilly Rhodes, Adam Hendrix, Bailey McAskill, Kobe Forbes, Zhane Fowler, Joel Street, Morgan Beason, (second row) teacher Dana Liles, Kaleb Shive, Jacob Minor, Macinzee Cook, L. J. Parker, Emma Sasse, Addison Stults, Isaac Merbeck, Evan Simco, Tyler Beavers, Wyatt Woodward, Shelby Weirich, Briana Locon, (back row) Janet Abernethy of Wilmes Superstore, teacher Angie Marple, Serena Charping, Rece Gribble, Garrett Fountaine, Talya Martinez, Mckenzie Nettleton, Brady Marple, Mysean Wells, Tyson Vernon, Caitlyn Collier, Kennedy Beason, Ethan Serna, teacher Karol Clayton, Dylan Jones, Tommy Eckstrom, and teacher Cathy Madl.

Will Rogers School rewards Star Readers



Will Rogers Elementary School's Star Readers were honored at the school recently. Each of these students has read at least 100 books this year. Pictured are (back row) Ana Pina-Alvarez, Roiquesia Copeland, Star Golden-Sims, Arianna Martinez, Chris Cummins, Jennifer Christian, Brianna McQuiggan, (middle row) Carlee Fort, Esmeralda Montalvo, Sam Pang, Malorie Wood, Luke Clothier, Savannah Clothier, (front row) Chance Ault, Dominic Doersom, Izabelle Willey, and Corey Sisneros.