

# SEMINOLE HAPPENINGS

A LOOK AT EVENTS AROUND SEMINOLE COUNTY

## Lyman High School Odyssey of the Mind Team going to World Finals



The team - Arsen Aldea, Lily Jacques-Baker, Tanvi Mathews, Ella Thrasher, Lexx Walker and others all represented Lyman High School in Odyssey of the Mind competition.

Photo contributed

### Special to the Herald

The Lyman High School Odyssey of the Mind team is going back to World Finals for a second straight year. Last year, the team earned fifth place at the international tournament in which over 800 teams from more than 30 countries compete. Now, they're ready to go for the gold at World Finals and cement Longwood's reputation as home to some of the most creative thinkers in the world.

The team - Arsen Aldea, Lily Jacques-Baker, Tanvi Mathews, Ella Thrasher, and Lexx Walker - earned their spot after competing in the Florida State Odyssey of the Mind Tournament on Saturday, April 6. Held annually at the University of Central Florida, the Florida tournament is the largest and most competitive in the United States. This year, a record-setting 288 teams from all across the state participated. The Lyman team received one of the highest scores of the day with their eight-minute skit featuring a reimagining of Leonardo da Vinci's workshop. Their performance included a working waterwheel, a human-sized trash can that came to life, and a variety of interpretations of some of the artists' famous failed inventions constructed from recycled materials.

What distinguishes Odyssey of the Mind from other problem-solving competitions is that team members develop, design, and construct everything themselves, with no assistance from adults. "Odyssey of the Mind teaches you a lot of life lessons in ways that you wouldn't expect," says team member Tanvi, 17. "We've learned how to work as a team, how to com-

municate, and how to take criticism and learn from it."

Odyssey of the Mind invites students to tackle a variety of engineering, design and performance based challenges. For some, teams have months to prepare and polish their solutions. Others, known as "spontaneous problems," encourage improvisation and quick thinking. Founded forty years ago by a New Jersey engineering professor who wanted his students to think outside the box, Odyssey of the Mind has since grown to include teams from all over the world. Participants from countries as far away as Poland, India, and China see the program's value for students of all ages.

World Finals will take place May 22-25 at Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI. Over the next month, the Lyman team will be fundraising the \$7,500 it will cost for transportation and lodging at World Finals. The team is grateful for the support of their community and for the opportunity to represent Longwood on the world stage.

"It's really important that we are going to World Finals again and that we're making an impact," says Tanvi. "We're basically putting ourselves on the map out there, especially for our community of Longwood and especially for Lyman High School."

More information about Odyssey of the Mind and World Finals can be found at <https://www.odysseyofthemind.com>. The Lyman High School team will be accepting donations to help support their trip to World Finals at <https://www.gofundme.com/Lyman-OOTM-2019>