

# Ocean Bowl wins fourth championship, advances to nationals

By Wesley Warrington  
staff writer

The OHS Ocean Bowl Team recently won the Hurricane Bowl in Ocean Springs, Miss. They competed against schools from Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi and Florida. The team qualified for the National Ocean Bowl competition in Washington, D.C. this April.

"The team competes for the state title in early February, and if they advance, they compete in the national competition, which varies every year with location and dates," senior and Ocean Bowl Captain Sharjeel Gul said.

Genetics and Microbiology teacher Nicole Roberson has sponsored and led the team for five years at OHS.

"I kind of guide them. I have to select who will be on the A-team to narrow it down, but I basically make sure they get where they are supposed to be," Roberson said. "I just try to keep them motivated and keep them from getting frustrated with each other and the material."

This year's Ocean Bowl team consisted of five new competitors: Gul, sophomore Edmund Doerksen, junior Bach Nguyen, sophomore Kareem Elgohry and senior Mohamed Marzouk. Marzouk explained that the team members have known each other for a

long time, have worked together several other times in classes they have had and see each other every day, so it was not extremely difficult to adjust.

"All of the schools that knew us as the returning winners didn't realize we were bringing a completely new five [members] to the competition," Roberson said. "They had to go in and compete together as a new team, and they really proved themselves and went completely undefeated."

In preparation for their competitions, the team meets together once a week to practice and focus on answering with the buzzers, go through material and practice the team challenge questions, a question the team has to solve and answer that can sometimes be up to two full pages in length.

"We practice every Friday during power hour; however, as competition nears, we hold more practices both at school and other places," Gul said.

Although the team is excited, there are new aspects of the competition that the team is inexperienced with that they will be facing in Washington, such as the Science Experts Briefing: a simulation of a Congressional hearing, according to Roberson.

"They'll have to prepare a Science Experts Briefing, so we're waiting on the legislature for that one," Roberson said. "That will be a dif-

ferent hurdle they have to cross, but they're ready and excited. It's going to be fun."

The Ocean Bowl Team is excited to travel to Washington, D.C. for their National competition, according to the team members and Roberson. They are very thrilled to compete and have the chance to make Oxford proud by bringing home the trophy.

"I think that our performance at the national level will make our school proud," Gul said. "We have the capability to beat many teams at na-

tionals, as long as we put in the work and effort required."

The team is always looking for new members. So far in Oxford's history, there have only been male members on the team, but Roberson is constantly working to recruit females.

"I would just like to finish this off by asking people to join the team next year and keep Oxford High School's streak going by winning the Regional Competition for the fifth time," Marzouk said.



Karina Patel • theCharger

Ocean Bowl members senior **Sharjeel Gul**, senior **Mohamed Marzouk** and junior **Bach Nguyen** wait to answer an Ocean Bowl practice question read by Ocean Bowl teacher sponsor Nicole Roberson during a practice. Since the Ocean Bowl team won the Hurricane Bowl, they will travel to Washington, D.C. to compete in the National Ocean Bowl competition in this April.



Creating healthy,  
happy smiles one  
child at a time.



C. Hayden Perkins, DMD  
Alisha Li, DMD  
2408 South Lamar Blvd.  
Suite 1  
Oxford, MS 38655  
662-513-4188



Find us on:  
facebook