

THIS IS ONEIDA HOMECOMING 2017

We had an excellent Homecoming with several hundred guests on campus on October 21. The weather was fantastic and the food and fellowship was even better. We had former students in attendance from places as far away as Germany and Costa Rica. It is always great to reconnect with former students and staff members.

When we moved Homecoming from late June to October a few years ago, my motivation was two-fold. I wanted cooler weather, but more importantly I wanted all of our students on campus for the event. I desired for our guests to see and possibly connect with our students and I wanted our students to see that lots of folks return to OBI every year because they have such love and appreciation for this place. Being a student at Oneida is a privilege but many young people initially view it as punishment. It can be difficult for many young people and we oftentimes don't fully appreciate Oneida until we are farther removed from our time here.

We recognized anniversary classes including one member from the class of 1947. We inducted two of our 2003 graduates who were both tremendous baseball players into our Athletic Hall of Fame. We also inducted our 1982 boys' state championship fencing team. Two team members and the coach who built our fencing program were in attendance for the induction. Oneida dominated the state in fencing from the late 1970's to the mid 1980's and won seven state championships during that time. When the Kentucky High School Athletic Association dropped the sport our reign officially ended.

Our coach had been a member of the fencing team at the University of Kentucky and shared that when he approached Dr. Barkley Moore about the possibility of adding the sport to Oneida's program that it took some convincing. The coach shared that Dr. Moore did not initially understand what fencing was and assumed it had something to do with building fences. Once Dr. Moore grasped what the sport was he then relented, but was concerned about putting a sharp object into the hands of our kids and allowing them to jab one another. Nonetheless, a dominant program was born.

This fencing coach and his wife met at Oneida and were married 40 years ago in our Melvin Davidson Chapel. We have had many weddings in our chapel over the years, but theirs was the first. We wrapped up the evening with our fall drama production, *Moriah Morning*, which was written in 1995 by one of our current staff members. This play about our school's founding and early history was performed in 1997 and 1999. We even had several descendants of our founder, James Anderson Burns, in attendance.

Plan to join us for another great Homecoming next year on October 20, 2018!



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