



ALUMNI NEWS

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Education for Time and Eternity

A newsletter for alumni of Oneida Baptist Institute

March 2013

W. F. "Bud" Underwood, tenth president of OBI, 1994-2012



What a difference a day makes! The day **Barkley Moore** died, January 25, 1994, forever changed the lives of the many faculty, staff, and students at OBI.

School went on as scheduled. As the days passed, we all discovered what we had known all along--God is our strength.

Our trustees asked **Dr. A.B. Colvin** to serve as Interim Administrator while they began the difficult task of selecting the next president of Oneida Baptist Institute. **Dr. W. F. Underwood** was one of seven people being considered. He had not submitted a resumé and did not know that Dr. Moore had told several of the trustees that if he were to die they should consider naming Underwood as the next president. The trustees sent Dr. Colvin to Dr. Underwood three times to ask him to submit a resumé. Twice Dr. Underwood told Dr. Colvin that he wasn't interested in being president and was perfectly content serving as Dean of Boys and Work Program Supervisor.

Several months passed. God was at work. The third time Dr. Colvin went to Dr. Underwood to request a resumé, he reluctantly agreed and finally submitted a brief, one-page resumé.

On July 6, 1994, the chairman of the Board of Trustees, **Dennis Rush**, and three other trustees met with Dr. Underwood and told him that the board had selected him to be Oneida's tenth president. The faculty and staff were told by Dr. Colvin the following day that Dr. Underwood was the new president. Officially, Dr. Underwood began his duties as president on August 1.

What does a new president at Oneida do first? How does he step into Barkley's office and fill those big shoes? Looking out the windows of the main office, one could see two unfinished buildings. A new school year was about to begin. New staff would be arriving, and new and returning students would be moving into the dorms. At first Dr. Underwood was not too happy serving as president. Why would God ask him to take on such an overwhelming responsibility? Taking one day at a time (often times very long days), Dr. Underwood, leaning on God's strength and guidance, accepted the role that had been thrust on him. His wife, Kay, truly a wonderful supporter, was also his greatest encourager.

First off, those two unfinished buildings, Rush and Campbell Halls, were completed. During Dr. Underwood's tenure, due to the blessings and provisions from God, many other physical improvements were made. Baker Hall was remodeled--including new classrooms on the second floor. A new print shop and Friendship House were

constructed. A new day care was built with two staff apartments on the second floor. Marvin-Wheeler Hall, one of our boys' residences, was remodeled. Gritton Hall was remodeled, which included larger rooms, a new piano lab and a new art room. Our indoor pool received some major repairs, too.

Sparks Hall, our main high school building, was remodeled, including new lighting and central heat and air conditioning on the lower level. In the gym, seating was increased and the old seats were replaced. Much-needed insulation was placed in the roof. The storage areas and concession stand were greatly improved.

The old computers in our computer labs in Russell Hall were replaced with state-of-the-art computers, and our students were given access to the internet.

On the farm, a new ag building was constructed with showers, offices, and a large meeting area for students and staff. Three new tractors were

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purchased.

If you asked our faculty and staff what improvements they have seen, you would soon learn that faculty housing would be high on their list. Most mobile homes were replaced and nearly 50 new residences were constructed or purchased. Some existing housing was greatly improved to provide additional housing for our volunteers. The amount of matching funds available to faculty and staff for retirement was doubled. The number of houseparents was increased and they were given additional time off.

The renovation of Anderson Hall was begun and is still in the process of being completed. A new sign at the main entrance of the school was erected

Perhaps Dr. Underwood's most significant accomplishment is the huge increase in the school's endowment fund which grew from approximately five million dollars to 28 million dollars. At the Underwoods' retirement celebration, **Barry G. Allen**, president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, stated, "A significant element in Bud's legacy as president will be the financial integrity and strength he has bequeathed to the future of this special ministry. When he began, the market value of the net assets of the institution was approximately \$7 million; per the latest audit (August 2011) the market value was \$35.2 million."

How does one explain the increase? Dr. Underwood explained, "It's all because of the provisions and blessings of the Lord." God's word is still shared at chapel every day and students are still welcomed at Oneida regardless of their faith or finances. Our prayer is that God will continue to bless Oneida, as we strive to honor Him in all that we do.

This year at Homecoming, June 29, we will be honoring Dr. Underwood by placing his portrait on our chapel wall, along with portraits of our previous nine presidents. He, as well as his classmates, the Class of 1963, will be celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of their graduation. □

Dear Friends,

How does one say "goodbye?" Homecoming 2013, **June 29**, will be the last one I will attend as Alumni Director. I will be moving to Louisville sometime in July after I finish putting together the Homecoming issue of the *Alumni News*. I have three siblings who always come back for Homecoming, so you will definitely continue to see all of us as long as we are physically able to get here.

When I retired from the guidance office at the close of the 2004 school year, I asked Bud if I could volunteer and stay on as Alumni Director. That was nine years ago. (I had been in the guidance office for 20 years.) Serving at Oneida is never a job; it is a privilege, a blessing, and a joy to be here. For me, it was a childhood dream that finally came true. I am so thankful God allowed me to return to the place where I really wanted to be.

I had always helped Barkley and then Bud with Homecoming--especially in sending letters to the classes that would be celebrating special anniversaries. Barkley had put out a paper called *The Alumni Record* when he was a student. He continued to return to Oneida on weekends while he was at U. K. to publish the paper. I was one of the girls who Mai Mai Sparks allowed to help label the papers, sometimes way into the night. I knew that putting out an alumni paper would be one of my main projects as Alumni Director. We have published three issues of the *Alumni News* each year --January, March, and September--beginning in 2004-05. You have traditionally received a Thanksgiving/Christmas letter and also a Homecoming letter in May from OBI's president.

I want to say a big thank-you to all the class representatives who have helped us promote Homecoming by writing letters to your classes for the different anniversary years. We have had a volunteer from each class all the way back to Hazel Ponder Burns (recently deceased-2012), Class of 1932. I wish I had room to list all 75 of you who have written letters to your classes. As I have said to many of you, it means so much more to get a letter from someone in your class asking you to return for a special reunion than it does to get a generic letter from the school. Please keep up the good work. OBI Homecomings will continue to exist as long as we have alumni, former staff and students who want to return.

Enough reminiscing! Homecoming will be here before we know it. According to **Bob Halcomb '54**, (who has attended almost every Homecoming since the first one in 1951), we will be celebrating our 63rd Homecoming on June 29. This year Bud and Kay's **Class of 1963** will be celebrating their 50th anniversary. Be sure to mark your calendars and make plans to be here. I can't wait to see you.

Sincerely,
Myrtle Webb Cooke '60
OBI Alumni Director

Oneida School On The Hill

Oneida! Fair Oneida! How my heart thrilled!
Coming up the river to see Marvin Hall on the hill.
Early in the morning, listening to the birds
While the sun was lifting the fog from the river,
We could see the place where our minds would be taught.
All the things that I learned from the teachers I knew
Like the "Gettysburg Address" and "My Old Kentucky Home."
It was a grand school--the best place for education--down to this time.
The building may be gone, but the memory remains,
Sitting there on the hill thru the sun and the rain,
A place where many minds were enriched thru many years in time.
Oneida School--in my mind you belong to me. ~ Geraldine Allen, Class of 1970

Patricia Wood Holabeck inducted into OBI Athletic Hall of Fame



Patricia Wood Holabeck, class of 1997, was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame at Homecoming on June 30, 2012.

If you attended Homecoming, you know that Patricia excelled in track and field competition. She competed at the state track and field meet both her junior and senior years. In spite of a second place finish at regionals in the long jump as a junior, she advanced to state and claimed the "All A" championship in that event with a personal best of 16'9 1/2." Returning to state competition her senior year, Patricia was the "All A" long jump runner-up, only 1 1/2" behind the winner. She also ran with the 4 x 100 relay team that finished in fourth place in state competition that year. Patricia's other sports included swimming, cross country, and basketball.

Patricia is the daughter of **Robert** and **Mary Lou Wood**. Her father was the Treasurer for Red Bird Missionary Conference and her mother was a teacher in Oneida's middle school. Academically, Patricia was valedictorian of her senior class, with a 4.0 GPA. She was active in choir, band, drama, BSU, BETA, and Student Council. Patricia was editor of the 1997 yearbook, senior class president, BETA vice-president, and was voted by her peers to be the most talented, most spirited, most dependable, and most studious senior girl. The faculty voted her to be the Most Likely to Succeed.

About her three years at Oneida, Patricia remarked, "I am truly thankful

for the opportunity to attend a Christian school with teachers who loved Jesus. I have very specific memories of many teachers and other adults who reflected the love of Jesus each and every day. My senior English teacher, **Dan Stockton**, had a profound impact on my life. He was a teacher who pushed me, challenged me to think for myself, and demanded excellence in all my writings and various projects. He was a teacher who believed in me and helped me to believe in myself."

After graduation, Patricia went to Grace College in Winona Lake, Indiana, earning her bachelor and master's degrees in Counseling Psychology. She also met her husband, **David Holabeck**, at Grace; they were married at Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church July 27, 2002.

In April 2007, the Holabecks went to Cambodia as missionaries with Grace Brethren International Missions (now Encompass World Partners). They worked with church-planting and micro-enterprise development--teaching the national farmers how to raise fish, frogs, mushrooms, vegetables, etc. and how to start a small business so they could be self-sustaining.

What was it like living in Cambodia? Patricia recalled that living overseas as a young family (they had a one-year-old) was difficult, away from all family support. Learning the language and getting acclimated to the Cambodian culture was a challenge. Patricia shared, "Living in Cambodia was one of the hardest and most beautiful experiences of my life. We experienced much pain and heartache, yet came to know God's deep love for us--His ruthless pursuit of us and His redemption. Also, we developed some very deep friendships and relationships."

The Holabecks currently live in Colorado Springs and are serving with Barnabas International, providing counseling and pastoral care to missionaries around the world. They have four children: **Asia**, age six; **Austin**, age four; **Sydney**, two and **Cayman**, five months. □

Homecoming 2013

The following classes will have special reunions at Homecoming on **June 29**. Individual class letters will be going out soon.

1943.....	70 years
1948.....	65 years
1953.....	60 years
1958.....	55 years
1963.....	50 years
1968.....	45 years
1973.....	40 years
1978.....	35 years
1983.....	30 years
1988.....	25 years
1993.....	20 years
1998.....	15 years
2003.....	10 years
2008.....	5 years

Reminders

April 1 is the deadline for the Athletic Hall of Fame nominations.

April 6 is the Alumni and Friends Dinner and our spring play, *The Ransom of Miss Elverna Dower*. Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. in the OBI dining room and the play will follow at 7:00 p.m. in the Melvin Davidson Chapel. It's not too late to call: Myrtle Cooke at 606-847-4111, ext. 268. Or e-mail: myrtlewebbcooke@yahoo.com

In Memoriam 2012

Additional names

Ruth Britton Mobley '39
John Woods--former student 1955-'58
Oscar Davidson--OBI trustee for 20 years: 1974-77, 1989-92, 1993-96, 1998-2001, 2002-2005



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Did we see YOU at Homecoming 2012?



Mark your calendar now! Save the date for
Homecoming 2013:
June 29

